





Ew. 658-1

M. Eur. ~~It. 155~~ 658-1

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~~Geogr. Europ.~~

Review.

A
R E V I E W
O F T H E
C H A R A C T E R S
O F T H E
P R I N C I P A L N A T I O N S
I N
E U R O P E.

In Two VOLUMES.

Monasterii VOL. I. *P. Burani.*

L O N D O N:

Printed for T. CADELL, (Successor to
Mr. MILLAR) in the Strand.

M.DCC.LXX,

Page 191. Before the Paragraph beginning with these Words "Their Negligence in these Matters," the following Paragraph should have been inserted:

" We ought, nevertheless, to except from the Severity
" of these Strictures a few Natives of Spain, who, during
" the last Century, distinguished themselves in Painting,
" such as Velasques and Murillo, especially the latter,
" many of whose Performances are held in the highest
" Esteem by the ablest Connoisseurs."

Page 253. Before the last Word of the first Paragraph,
Designs, add, *real*.



OF
THE ENGLISH.

To the Honourable G. R.

IN Compliance with your Request I now proceed to attempt a Delineation of the various Characters of the most celebrated among the modern Nations.

A Detail of their Customs and Manners is not here proposed. The principal Intent of this Performance is to animadvert on those Peculiarities whereon the Disparity between them is strikingly founded, and which, like Features in the human Countenance, render them all conspicuously different from each other.

VOL. I.

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IN order, at the same Time, to trace the Causes of their good or bad Qualities, of the Vigour and Growth, or Weakness and Decline of their Spirit and Abilities, the political Revolutions they have undergone will come occasionally under Consideration; and no proper Opportunity be omitted of having Recourse to the Assistance of those historical Passages that may serve to throw a further Light upon the Subject: As the Influence of public Events over the Minds of Men is powerful in all Countries, and often visibly proves the Source from whence the Temper and Disposition of a People originally flow.

IN a Review of this Kind it is natural to begin at Home. But lest too flattering a Description of our Countrymen should be the Consequence of appealing solely to the Verdict of English Writers, the Opinions of Foreigners will also be duly consulted, and our national Merits be referred, in a great Measure to their Decision; correcting only the Mistakes and Inaccuracies to which they were liable from Inadvertence, or from an imperfect Investigation of some Occurrences.

FOREIGNERS are not, in general, prepossessed in our Favour; tho' from Views of Self-interest they may frequently disguise their Sentiments to the English abroad, or express a good Opinion of us when inclined, from the same Motives, to settle in England.

THE Diffusion of the French, our natural Enemies, over the Face of all Europe, operates unfavourably for us in more Instances than we are perhaps well aware of. As they carry with them wherever they go, a deep rooted Attachment to their Country (which even the worst usage Subjects can receive from Government is not able to eradicate) they lose no Opportunities of sounding forth its Praises; and of enforcing, with all that Energy and Heartfelt pleasure Conviction inspires, its Grandeur and superior Excellence to any other Part of the World whatever. This is a Fact so universally known and admitted that it were needless to inlarge upon it.

BUT it is particularly over the English they labour to establish an Opinion of their Pre-eminence. The English have long been their avowed Rivals; consequently as

to depress us is in some Measure to exalt themselves, they are always ready to draw disagreeable Pictures of this Nation; and whether through Envy, or the natural Propensity of Mankind to listen to Defamation, their Reports, however injurious, are but too implicitly received.

HAPPILY for us, however, there are others who have inquired into the Merits of the Cause, by residing among us, or inspecting with an unbiaſſed and enlightened Attention, the different Accounts published of this Country, and of its Inhabitants. From the combined Speculations of these Friends, Foes, and neutral Spectators, a Draught of our Character may be formed that will be found, it is hoped, tolerably consistent with Truth.

THERE is no stronger Proof of the Inconstancy and Mutability of all human Things, than the prodigious Change effected in the Course of the two last Centuries in the Minds, Manners, and political Constitution of the People of this Island. During the Reigns of the Plantagenets and the Tudors, our Liberty had made but a slow Progress.

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The Want of intellectual Improvements retarded all others. Our Government, in most Instances, was absolutely tyrannical; and we were buried in the profoundest Superstition. Who can forget the Iron Days of William the Conqueror? who not content to rule us with the most unbounded Despotism, in whatever related to the public Administration of Things, extended the Exertion of his Will and Pleasure into the most secret Recesses of Family Occurrences; registering every Man's Possessions, in order to dispose of them for his own use, whenever he thought proper, without deigning to consult the Owner; prescribing even the Hours of Rest and Labour, and subjecting every Englishman, from the highest to the lowest throughout the Kingdom, to the utmost Severity of this oppressive Regulation. Thus the whole Realm became, as it were, a Camp or Garrison, where no Man durst stir out of his Quarters till the stated Hours of Permission to rise and enjoy the Day; and where the Signal of Retreat was regularly given by the Sound of a Bell, warning People to extinguish their domestic Fires. A Custom, of which some Traces still subsisted even so lately as the Begin-

6 OF THE ENGLISH.

ning of Charles the first's Reign, as appears from Milton's Allusion to it in his *Penseroſo*. Who can forget the ſervile Tribute ſo long paid to the papal See; and the more infamous Homage it received from one of our Kings, who acknowledged the Pope to be his Sovereign, and ſubmitted himſelf and his Dominions to his temporal, as well as to his ſpiritual Authority? Theſe equally dreadful and humiliating Paſſages cannot too frequently be recalled. They ſerve to renew, in the Words of Tacitus, the *Memoriam priſtinae Servitutis*, the Remembrance of a Slavery ſuch as no other European Nation ever experienced; and conſequently to render us the more grateful on the Reflection *praesentium Bonorum*, of the happy Diſparity of our preſent Circumſtances.

SUCH Anecdotes, however, need create no Wonder, when we recollect that in thoſe Days the Ignorance of our Forefathers was ſuch that the now ordinary and vulgar Qualifications of Reading and Writing were confined to the Clergy; many of whom were but very moderately converſant in either, and ſome as utter Strangers to them as any of the Laity.

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So astonishing, in consequence of this Destitution of Literature, was the Credulity and Superstition of those Times, that the Prosperity both of the Body and Soul was attached to the Performance of the ridiculous Exercises of Devotion then in Vogue; and it was a common Thing to ascribe all Misfortunes to the Neglect of some stupid Ceremonies, pretty much in the Spirit of the old, unenlightened Romans, who durst not give Battle, or undertake any Business of Importance, if any Flaw was found in the Victims destined for Sacrifice, if the Flight of Birds was not according to the Rules of a good Omen, or if the sacred Chickens had not eaten with a good Appetite.

IN this Abyss of Infatuation our Ancestors and indeed all Europe remained for Ages; 'till a daring Friar in Germany stood forth, and animated by his Example many Parts of Christendom to shake off the Yoke of Superstition; which, it must at the same Time be confessed, could not have been much longer born; as the Revival of Learning had been gradually opening the Eyes of the World for Half a

Century before his Appearance. The Edifice of papal Power was beginning to totter in more than one Country; and as the Roman Republic was formerly said to have been so ripe for Destruction, that had Cæsar failed, some equally resolute and aspiring Head of a Faction must have overthrown it, with no less Propriety it might have been asserted of the Church of Rome, that if Luther had not begun its Demolition, another certainly would; as according to the usual Course and Appearances of Things, its universal Influence and Despotism had not long to last.

BUT, tho' we were of the first to admit and incourage the Reformation, yet the Spirit of the Nation was still fetter'd by the Weight of an oppressive and almost unlimited Power in the Government. Our Constitution was then far from being settled on its present Footing, and afforded us no real Title to call ourselves free. We were loaded with all those Impediments that little Minds, possess'd of great Authority, are always ready to throw in the Way of intellectual Improvements; and tho' we were fast emerging from Barbarity, and
had

had made no inconsiderable Progress in Letters, and in the Arts of Civilisation, it was long before we compassed that Extent of political Liberty which alone enables a People to shew themselves in every Light of their Character.

THE Revolution is the Epocha from whence we may date the complete Effulgence of our Disposition. Since that Time, tho' Changes have happened, yet they have been rather of Personages and collateral Accidents; the main Body, as it were, of that Spirit which then informed the Nation, still subsists unaltered and unimpaired; and the English of those Days were, in every essential Respect, the same People the English are at present. It is, therefore, chiefly to those who belong to this Period that our Observations must be applied.

FOREIGNERS, whose Verdicts will be particularly attended to in the Remarks on this Nation, tax us with a Temper immoderately addicted to whatever happens to be our favourite Pursuit; and obstinately prone to trust intirely to our own Judgment.

ment. Herein they seem not mistaken; neither is it in the least surprising that we should really prove such as they represent us, when we reflect how difficult it is for human Nature to act with Moderation in the Transition from extreme Oppression to excessive Liberty. This is precisely our Case. From the heaviest Bondage under our ancient Form of Government, and the blindest Subserviency to the Dictates of an illiterate, imperious Clergy, we have made our Way to the most unbounded Freedom both in civil and religious Matters; we think, we speak, and, which is more, we act, without Restraint, in whatever relates to either; as we have found Means to subject both to far more than bare Speculation.

IN no other Country dare Individuals consult their own Opinions on these Topics, and prescribe to themselves their own Limits of Thought, Speech, and Conduct in the Manner we do: Whence Montesquieu says very truly, that in all our Writings, *On y voit des Gens qui ont pensé tout seuls*, it is evident that every Man has thought for himself. Others
before

before him had made nearly the same Observation, when they took notice what little use our Authors made of Quotations, and how boldly they delivered and insisted on their own Apprehensions of Things; widely different in this from the Rest of almost all Mankind, who, in general, very submissively consent to be led by those in whom the legal Direction resides.

HENCE, there is no People, according to the unanimous Avowal of Foreigners, over whom Prejudices have so little Influence as the English. Many even of those, a moderate Portion whereof is occasionally beneficial to the Community, have been rooted out without the least Mercy. The Respect due to Royalty, for Instance, of which it is certainly better to have a little too much, than much too little, is rather becoming obsolete. Nobleness of Birth is held much cheaper than it is necessary or proper it should be; and the Bars of Distinction between the different Classes of the Community are not strong enough to resist the Impertinence of the Vulgar; too wantonly ready to recall to Notice the Level on which Nature has placed

placed all Mankind, and very unwilling to yield any Precedence to Rank and Dignity of Station.

THIS Want of Reverence for their Betters in the English Commonalty, may be deduced from the unfortunate Æra of our civil Wars in the last Century; when the outrageous Proceedings of the fanatical Party having overturned the Throne, and almost destroyed the Nobility, diffused among the People a contemptuous Hatred for both. A Mischief which the Restoration did not cure from the unpopular Measures and licentious Lives of those in Power; much less the Revolution, which being founded on the broadest Bottom of civil Liberty, befriended those republican Principles on which this Disrespectfulness was partly founded.

WITHOUT abetting those Slavish Maxims that unnecessarily or undeservedly exalt any Individuals above others, it may be asserted that no Danger can accrue to public Freedom, and that no Person need apprehend any Diminution of his Importance, by allowing honorary Distinctions
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to those whom Fortune has placed above him; since the least Reflection teaches that such Concessions are purely formal and exterior, and far from interfering with his real Welfare, on the contrary promote it, by that Dilatation of Soul which the Great, if not totally lost to all Sentiment, cannot help feeling, when they are treated with a becoming Deference; and by that Benignity of Heart, that Desire to prove serviceable, which naturally accompanies, and is indeed produced by, so agreeable a Sensation.

OUR Disregard for Ecclesiastics, to give it the softest Term, is another Charge brought against us by Foreigners, and chiefly by those of the Romish Communion; who think our Behaviour in this Respect the more reprehensible, as the Veneration they profess for their own Clergy borders as much upon Excess the other Way. But however They may be to blame, it must be confessed there is but too much room for this Accusation; and such a Conduct naturally tends to have so pernicious an Effect upon our Morals, that Impartiality obliges one to pass Condemnation

tion on a large Body of our Countrymen, and many of those not of the Vulgar, for this heinous Trespass not more against Decency and good Manners, than all sound Policy.

NOTWITHSTANDING some of the Clergy may render themselves unworthy of their Cloth (as no Profession whatever is exempt from such as disgrace it) yet far the greater Number are Men of Virtue and exemplary Lives; and were it only for their Learning, of which, in the Opinion of all intelligent Foreigners, as well as in our own, they possess a more considerable Stock than the Clergy of any other Country, they are amply intitled to our Notice and Regard, as contributing so largely to support the literary Honour of the Nation, and enriching it daily with so many valuable Productions.

WHATEVER Censures may deservedly fall on the Conduct of some of their Predecessors, for having, in former Days, espoused the Cause of arbitrary Power, yet it should be remembered that in those unhappy Times, the respective Rights of
King

King and People were still, in a great Measure, Matters of Opinion, of which, while undecided, each Party remained equally tenacious; and that in this Light a great Portion of the Laity were as criminal as they.

BUT if Objections lie against them on this Score, it should not, on the other Hand, be forgotten that the first legal Stand against the iniquitous Designs of James the Second, was made by the Heads of the Church of England, who took the Lead in resisting him, at a Time when it was far from clear that he would meet with the Reverse of Fortune that shortly after befel him.

FOREIGNERS, or to speak more properly the French, bitterly complain of the Bluntness of our Disposition and Behaviour, and of the Readiness to *rompre en Visiere*, as they phrase it, to give every one his Own, that infects our Manners with a Rudeness which, they say, all our Commerce with the Muses has not been able to soften.

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IT may be granted, indeed, that we are not so studiously polished in external Modes and Habits as the French, and those who glory in their Imitation; but is not the Failing they reproach us with rather a Happiness? as it proceeds much more from the manly Boldness of our Temper, than from the Sourness of our Nature; which, whoever is well acquainted with this Nation will allow to be kind, compassionate and generous. It is true that in Conversation we are apt to scorn Diffimulation, and to let ourselves loose without Necessity. But this same untractable Disposition makes ample amends for its Trefpasses, by induing us with Fortitude in all Matters of Moment, and rendering us Examples of Firmness and Resolution in the great Scenes and Exigencies of civil and public Life. It is to this unyielding, and what our Enemies may call, if they please, this uncomplaisant, rough Spirit that we owe our Freedom, and the Blessings of a Constitution superior in every Branch of Excellence to that of any other Country. Hence, tho' our lower Classes may be less polite, the better Sort have more Strength of Understanding than is known elsewhere
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in those of their Degree; and few, surely, will deny that excessive Refinement in the mere Modes of Intercourse tends to wear away the Truth and Simplicity of Nature, (both indubitably the most agreeable Endowments of the Heart) and to substitute in their Stead, the Disguise and Affectation of Art; which, however they may please the Eye, and engage the Affection of shallow Persons, are much less acceptable to Men of Judgment and Penetration, than open, downright, unstudied Plainness.

IN consequence of this Frame of Mind, an Englishman, when convinced of the Propriety of what he is about, affronts all Opposition, sets Custom at Defiance, and follows the Dictates of his Reason boldly and in spite of Sneers and Censure, from whatever Quarter they may proceed.

AFTER having vindicated the general Character of our Countrymen in these Particulars, it must, on the other Hand, be acknowledged there are some Flaws in it of a very unhappy Tendency.

OUR Tempers are often violent and ungovernable in a Degree that borders upon Phrenzy. We are apt suddenly to take the most pernicious Resolutions, and to execute them with the most fatal Promptitude. Many among us, when thwarted in their Designs, have instantly lost all Patience, and abandoned themselves to a total Neglect of their Interest and Fortunes. Others, on the least Discouragements in the Prosecution of Business, have immediately betaken themselves to the most desperate Courses. Even the fair Sex participate of this outrageous Impetuosity of Soul; and there are Precedents of some who cross in their Inclinations by parental Authority, or the Intervention of Accidents, have sworn to accept of the first Offer, and have done it accordingly.

THIS unaccountable Propensity to quarrel, as it were, with their Destiny, is an epidemical Vice in the People of England, who may not improperly be said, on these Occasions, to wreak their Vengeance

geance on themselves for the Severity of Fate.

THE usual Extravagances which Heat of Youth and Warmth of Passions universally inspire, are in this Country carried to Lengths unheard of elsewhere. The strangest Excesses of all Sorts equally prevail among the High and the Low. Our daily Papers are full of them, not a few originals in their Kind; but many of them are often attended with the most serious Consequences; those arising from Intoxication especially, are sometimes terrible. It is even said that in the brutal Fury of Drunkenness Men have gone so far as to associate themselves by mutual Oath for the Destruction of the first of their Fellow-creatures who might unhappily fall in their Way, and have too faithfully kept their Word.

CERTAIN it is that a Proneness to Mischiefs is among us too commonly the Result of a Debauch; our restive, impatient Spirit, at all Times averse to much Controul, becomes then incapable of any.

NEITHER can it be denied that a wanton Commission of Irregularities is frequently the Concomitant of that libertine Course of Living to which Numbers of our younger People are so much addicted. This was remarkably exemplified about half a Century ago, at the latter End of Queen Ann's Reign, in that ignominious Combination of Individuals so well known by the Name of Mohawks.

A Forgetfulness of their Dignity has also been objected to our Nobility and Gentry, in mixing too sociably with their Inferiors, sharing their Diversions, and sometimes condescending to resent Affronts from the meanest of the Populace, and even to enter the Lists of Combat with them.

BUT they who have made the Popularity of their Behaviour an Article of Censure, seem to forget the Nature of our Government, which has not set Mankind at that Distance from each other wherein absolute Monarchies or Aristocracies have placed

placed them abroad. Our Great ones are in very frequent Want of the lower Classes in the Pursuit of their various Schemes of Ambition, and therefore dare not treat them with much Superciliousness. They who have tried the Experiment have repented it; and tho' the Approximation of the great and the little World is become in some Measure only septennial, yet in the Fluctuation of so free a Government as ours, it is far from impossible it may revert to its triennial Institution, as framed at the Time of the Revolution. A Period which, of late, seems to ingross the Attention of People more than usual, as the true Principles of our Constitution were then ascertained by the unanimous Concurrence of all its Components; and as, according to the Maxim universally received in Politics, a Government, to secure its Duration, should often revisit as it were, the Fountain from whence it primitively flowed, in order to clear away the Obstructions to its free Course and genuine Purity, contracted through the Inattention and Remissness almost unavoidable in any considerable Lapse of Time.

HENCE, whatever Respect our Grandees have a Right to claim, and whatever Deference Men of Sense and Breeding are ever willing to shew them, while their Reputation remains un sullied, yet they must not, and indeed to do Justice to their Magnanimity and Rectitude of Thinking, they expect not that Servility of Submission which the tyrannical Nobles of so many other Countries are so jealous in exacting. As the Spirit of Liberty wherein they have been trained from their Infancy, has taught them to look upon it as the Birth-right of every Man, they too well remember the Lesson ever to become guilty of Incroachments that would only tend to render their Lives uneasy and their Persons odious.

AND yet notwithstanding this Moderation in our English Nobility and Gentry, they cannot escape that no less pernicious than shameful Proneness to Murmur and Discontent, which leads us perpetually to satirise our great Men, even for those Failings that are almost inseparable from the Condition of Humanity.

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FROM this Restlessness and Petulance of Disposition such Mischiefs not unfrequently arise, as prove, at last, more detrimental to the Community than malicious People are willing to admit. Hence, those wanton Undervaluations of Capacity and Inclination for Business. Hence, that merciless, indiscriminate Misrepresentation which pursues Men in Office, and sets them forth as totally unfit for what they have undertaken.

WHENCE this cavilling Humour proceeds is sufficiently obvious, when we turn our Eyes on the Multitude of Competitors for every Department in the Administration, among whom the disappointed must necessarily form the most numerous Body; ever ready, from the indulgent Reception they are conscious Envy will always give to Calumny, to fall with the most unrelenting Fury, on their successful Rivals; to depreciate their Talents, and to describe them as unworthy of the Notice Fortune has been pleased to take of them.

BUT, notwithstanding this indefatigable Spirit of Detraction that so fiercely assails the Character and Reputation of all who happen to be highly promoted, and almost inclines unintelligent Bystanders to imagine our Stock of Men of Genius is exhausted; notwithstanding the Malignity and Virulence to which every Man must pay Tribute who aims at becoming conspicuous in this Nation, the real Truth is that our Nobility and Gentry are, in general, Persons of far superior Abilities to their Equals in Rank in other Countries; as indeed, it is but reasonable to presume they must be when we reflect that their Birth in a Land of Freedom, secures them an Education on a much more liberal and extensive Plan than the Maxims of most other European Governments admit of; and that in the Progress of their Studies they are not stinted by those Limits which Bigotry, or a pusillanimous Obedience to oppressive, undue Authority are ever so careful to prescribe.

A convincing Proof of their intellectual Merit is the solid, substantial Encouragement
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they give to useful and respectable Arts and Talents, far exceeding the Consideration and Recompence they procure abroad; where empty Praise, or a scanty Pittance, and collegial Obscurity, is often the Portion of eminent Parts. While with us, they find Admittance among our prime leading Men, whose Conviction of their Importance and Utility in public Affairs, often advances their Owners to the most honourable Preferments.

BESIDES, as it is impossible to make any Figure in our great national Assembly, without a previous Preparation by long Study and Meditation; without a very considerable Knowledge of Men and Things; without a keen Insight into the Affairs of our own Country; and a large and an accurate Acquaintance with those of others; as all these are necessary Requisites in a Man who means to recommend himself to the public Notice, and as we have certainly many who deserve and command that Notice, in the most ample Manner, we need no other Argument of the abundant Measure of real, intrinsic

intrinsic Worth to be found in many of the principal Constituents of this Nation.

As to their voluntary Degradation of themselves, by intermixing with those beneath them, which, as already observed, is a Reproach cast upon them by inattentive, uninformed Strangers, it is no more than the Roman Nobility was wont to practise in the brightest Ages of that Republic. In whatever Country this levelling Spirit may occasionally prevail, it is rather an Evidence that the Privileges of Humanity preponderate against Pride and Haughtiness, than that either the Great have lost Sight of their Dignity, or the inferior Classes a proper Sense of what is due to their Superiors.

A Characteristic highly honourable to our Nobility and Gentry, which inhances their Estimation among Foreigners, in Proportion as these feel their Deficiency in that respect, and contributes as much as any Thing to establish an essential and national Disparity between us and the French particularly, is that Undejectedness of Mind
with

with which an Englishman bears the Frowns of a Court ; that Fidelity of Friendship he experiences from his Intimates ; that Continuance of Notice and Regard he meets with from his Acquaintance, none of whom think it incumbent on them to relinquish him on Account of his Loss of Favour ; but on the contrary, while they judge his Conduct and Character unimpeachable, rather testify more Esteem and Attachment to him than before. A striking Contrast to what is seen abroad, especially in France, where whoever falls under Disgrace at Court is abandoned on every Side, and fled from with a Pusillanimity that fully shews the Degree of Abjectness to which Despotism can sink the human Soul ; while the Magnanimity displayed among us, on such Occasions, demonstrates as clearly the Elevation of Mind of which Mankind is susceptible, when under the auspicious Influence of a rational Government.

THE most fatal of those Habits for which we deserve to be stigmatized, is that amazing Propensity to Self-Destruction, which

which distinguishes us in so deplorable a Manner, from every other civilized Nation. Were we to imitate the Romans in this Respect, and put a Period to our Lives, only to save ourselves from Slavery or from Infamy, there would then exist some Shadow of Excuse; but the most weak and groundless Pretences are often sufficient to impel us to Suicide; and Persons have sometimes taken this dreadful Determination by Way of revenging themselves on others to whom they knew their Death must occasion much Sorrow or much Detriment. The fair Sex are not in the least inferior to the Men in that horrible Species of Intrepidity, and are prompted to it by Motives equally frivolous; though commonly their Inducement to act such terrible Tragedies is Love, a Passion that commits more Ravages, and does incomparably more Mischief in this Country, than in any other whatever.

STRADA, in his History of the low Country Wars, says that Mars only travelled in other Regions, but had fixed his principal Seat and Residence in those; it may with equal Propriety be asserted, that Love, however

however known in other Countries, is no where else so powerfully felt as here; where daily Instances evince how effectual and extensive its Dominion is over the Inhabitants of this Island, from the highest to the lowest. Whence Foreigners observe very justly, that Connexions arising from its Influence, are of a much more serious Nature in England than in most other Places; where Love is oftener treated as an Amusement, than as an Affair of real Importance.

THIS naturally leads one to speak of the female Part of this Nation, which affords indubitably a far greater Number of beautiful Women than almost any other; and what is more to their Praise, no less valuable for their mental Endowments than for their external Charms.

FOREIGNERS, on their Arrival here, manifest their Consciousness of the superior Comeliness of our Women, by making it the continual Topic of their Conversation; and though some of them are not willing to exclude from the Right of Comparison the Females of their own Country,
yet

yet their Cause is espoused with so much Faintness, that one may easily perceive it is only done by Way of saving their Honour, and enabling them to make a sort of decent Retreat from the Field of Contention, where they well know they could not maintain their Ground, and therefore wisely avoid much Discourse on that Subject.

STRANGERS unanimously agree in their Descriptions of our English Women, with whose Gentleness of Temper, and unfeigned Modesty, they seem chiefly to be captivated; and invariably concur in representing them of a decent, unaffected Deportment, and of a tender, affectionate Disposition; in all this they certainly exceed most Women; and to crown their other good Qualities, are above the Littlenesses of Diffimulation, and dare nobly avow their Attachment when they deem it honourably placed and deservedly conferred. Their unshaken Fidelity to those on whom they have fixed their Choice, and their chusing a Lover without suffering themselves to be influenced by sordid Motives, are incontestible Proofs of the Sincerity of their Affec-
tion,

tion, and of their Greatness of Mind. Examples of this Sort are so common in England, that they scarcely engage any particular Notice, and are spoken of as Things of Course, at which Nobody is expected to testify any Surprize. Hence it is, that we so frequently hear of what the Interested call disproportionate Matches; that is to say, where Inclination has been principally consulted, and where the Circumstances of the Parties are widely different. Events of this Nature are much rarer Abroad; where the Women are generally more solicitous about the pecuniary Qualifications of their future Partners, than intent on their personal Graces, or their intellectual Merit; both powerful Attractions with the fair Sex of our Island.

BUT as eminent characteristical Virtues are seldom found in any Country, without some Allay of that Excess which often degenerates into Vice, it must be confessed, that this Resolution of Temper, which carries our Women through laudable Determinations, and such as do equal Honour to their Head and Heart also accompanies them in the Execution of Designs
highly

highly disgraceful to their Taste and Understanding. What, for Example, can a Woman of Birth and Education alledge in her Excuse, when forgetting the Dignity of her Character, and the Disproportion of Mind and Soul that must ever prove a Bar to intellectual, the greatest and only lasting Endearments, she descends to an unpolished Menial, a gross Plebeian; and thus, openly trampling on all Delicacy of Sentiments, in a Manner tells the World, she values nothing in a Man but the Difference of Sex?

OF all the Accusations Prejudice has formed against this Nation, there is none more void of Truth, than that which the French, of all our Neighbours, are perpetually urging against us (if indeed it may not be affirmed they are the original Inventors and Propagators of it) the Charge of a ferocious Disposition, prone to indulge itself in Scenes of Blood and Barbarity. If by this, they would mean no more than a Fondness in our lower Classes for Pastimes of the rough, gymnastic Kind, the Combats of Animals, and sometimes of Gladiators, there is no denying, that, till very lately,

lately, Exhibitions of this Kind were highly favoured, and even met with Encouragement and Applause from no few of the better Sort. Neither can it be dissembled that Countenance is still given to some Remains of those boisterous and inelegant Amusements. But if the French, or any other Misrepresenters of our Customs and Manners, led away by such Appearances, infer from thence, that we are of a sanguinary, cruel Temper, they certainly go wide of the Mark. Humanity is an Appendage, which no Foreigner well informed, and conversant in our Ways and real Character, was ever backward in allowing us. All our Laws and civil Regulations powerfully favour and second such a Spirit. There are few Instances of private, and none of public or legal Cruelty among us, comparatively with those exercised in other Countries. The Rack, and other Methods of extorting Confession from those who are suspected of Crimes, or of tormenting Criminals to force them to a Discovery of their Accomplices, are unknown here; as well as the dreadful Tortures with which Death is elsewhere so frequently inflicted on the Guilty. The

Differences and Quarrels among the lower Sort, are not attended with those immediate Murders, or premeditated Assassinations, so common Abroad ; and Duels, so destructive in other Nations, but seldom happen among our Gentlemen. Even the worst Members of the Community, Robbers and Highwaymen, are celebrated over all Europe for abstaining from Deeds of Inhumanity. What renders this the more remarkable, is the Facility and Expedition with which Perpetrators of Thefts, and other Violators of the Law, are discovered and brought to Justice ; which one might imagine would tempt them to rid themselves at once of any who were likely to become Evidence against them, conformably to the detestable Maxim so thoroughly practised by their more abandoned Brethren abroad.

AN Observation that frequently recurs in the Discourse of judicious Foreigners, is that, in the midst of immense Wealth, we still retain an Aversion to all Kind of Effeminacy. Our good Cheer is rather noted for its Abundance, than for culinary Refinements ; and we but

but little indulge ourselves in that inactive Ease and Indolence of Body and Mind, which are the usual Result of Opulence in most other Countries. Our Modes of passing Time, even with those who are most unemployed, all favour of Activity and Manliness; and even the tender Sex, on all Occasions, give the Preference to those Amusements that afford them Exercise. While, on the contrary, a Propensity to sedentary Pleasures, characterises almost all the neighbouring Nations: Those not excepted, who pretend to a much greater Degree of Vivacity, than falls to our Share.

THIS active Disposition is accompanied in most Individuals, with such a Measure of spirited Behaviour and personal Courage, as even those who would gladly curtail the Number of our shining Qualities, are obliged to bear witness to. There does not certainly exist a People more celebrated on that Account, and who yet make a less Parade of their Bravery, and are more inclined to a peaceable Demeanour; of which no completer Argument can be adduced, than the friendly pacific Life led by the Gentlemen of our Fleets and Armies a-

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mong themselves; who with great Justice, may be said to reserve their Prowess for the Enemies of their Country; and whose sociable Intercourse is seldom disturbed by that Demon of Turbulence and Quarrelsomeness, which so much infests the military Part of other Nations; among whom, none furnish more numerous Proofs of this melancholy Truth, nor indeed so many as the French.

NOTWITHSTANDING the Politeness and Elegance that of late Years have attended our public Recreations, and rendered them universally admired, the French, whose Emulation, or rather whose Jealousy is ever on the Watch, have taxed us with a Want of Taste and Decorum in many of them, especially the Stage; and though in their cool, dispassionate Moments, they are easily brought to a Confession of the superior Ingenuity with which many of our Pastimes are conducted, yet their Vehemence against our Drama knows no Bounds. They are quite unable to contain their Indignation when they hear an Englishman prefer a Shakespear to their Corneille, their Racine and others, whom they superlatively esteem, and would
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have all the World esteem, with the same Degree of Enthusiasm, as the *humani Generis Deliciae*, the Delight of all rational Admirers, preferably to all other dramatic Writers, either ancient or modern. In Support of this Opinion they proceed to the Arraignment of our great Author before the Bar of French Criticism; and with the most atrocious Spite, enumerate all those Faults and Blemishes that resulted from the Complexion of the Times; and were as much an Appurtenance of their Spirit and Fashion, as the very Dress he wore, and the Phrases he used. An impartial Examiner of these French Strictures cannot fail to retort a much more severe, as well as truer Censure on their Ignorance and Defect of Apprehension, in not perceiving, or which is worse, on their Malignity in affecting to overlook the innumerable Passages, where the Genius of that astonishing Poet shines with a Lustre which defeats all Attempts of Comparison between him and any of their Writers. It is truly of him we may say, in the Stile of Roscommon, that the Sterling Weight and Energy of many of his Lines would af-

ford Matter for whole Pages of French Poetry. Take indiscriminately any of his remarkable Speeches, and it will be no Rashness to assert that France can exhibit nothing equal to them in their Kind.

WHATEVER the French may boast of their Theatre, the Merit of many of their celebrated Plays is rather negative than positive, their chief Excellence consisting more in having no Faults, than in abounding with Beauties. Shakespear is precisely the Reverse; and according to Longinus, whose Treatise of the Sublime the French will admit as an Authority of sufficient Weight, such a Character in Writing is preferable to the former. In the same Manner as a great General, or a great Statesman, however their private Lives may be clouded by Failings, or sullied with Vices, are still more valuable, and illustrious Members of Society, than other Citizens can pretend to be, however their Conduct may be irreproachable, and their Morals untainted.

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THUS much for Tragedy; on the Nature of which, the two Nations hold Opinions as diametrically opposite as they do on their respective Talents for that Species of Composition.

OUR comic Muse has fared more favourably. Two celebrated Writers, both of them competent Judges, and both Frenchmen, St. Evremont and Voltaire, seem to allow us the Precedence; and it is worthy Notice that the former flourished at a distant Period from the latter; at a Time when English Comedy was far from having acquired that Perfection which procured, a second Time, a Frenchman's Acknowledgment of its Superiority over the French.

UPON the whole, perhaps the Fact may be that we have too much of Action upon our Stage, and the French too little of it on theirs. They delight in Dialogues wherein too studious a Refinement of Thought and Expression lets the *Vis dramatica*, the Spirit of the Drama evaporate. We, on the contrary, require

that an animated Series of Incidents should form the Body, and a lively Strain of Speech, unclogged by long Harangues, the Soul of a theatrical Performance.

WHATEVER Opinion the French may entertain of our tragic Writers, they are candid enough in admitting the great Merit of the English in all other Works of Genius, and every kind of literary Production; a Praise which no Person conversant in the learned World will refuse us; there being no Department, either of polite and agreeable, or philosophical and profound Knowledge, which we have not cultivated with the most brilliant Success.

As to those Arts and Inventions that receive an additional Worth from the mechanical Dexterity and Expertness of the Artificer, there is no Part of Europe but what yields Testimony to the Variety of Improvements that owe their Birth to the Ingenuity of this Nation. Whatever bears the Stamp of English Workmanship is held in preference every where. There is

is a Vein of Solidity and Perfection conspicuous in all that proceeds from our Hands; and manual Labour, which abroad is usually heavy and incomplete, is here performed with a Degree of Neatness and Elegance that almost raises the Journeyman to the Artist.

ONE may conclude with an Observation of St. Evremont, a Man thoroughly versed in human Nature, and who having long resided among us, and, as his Epitaph in Westminster-abbey with great Truth records, ingratiated himself, by his eminent Merit, with all Ranks and Conditions here, was completely qualified to speak of them with Discernment and Propriety. After mentioning several Things very much to our Advantage, he sums up, in a Manner, our Character, by saying, *il n'y a point de Nation qui fasse voir plus de Courage dans les Hommes, et plus de Beauté dans les Femmes, plus d'Esprit dans l'un et dans l'autre Sexe*, there is no Nation that displays more Courage in the Men and more Beauty in the Women, and a greater Portion of good Sense in either Sex.

SUCH

SUCH is the Epitome that may be drawn of this Nation; undoubtedly the most celebrated of any in Europe, for whatever can render a People singularly remarkable. Its Government, political Notions, Maxims and Manners, afford an ampler Fund of Speculation than is found in any other of the great European Kingdoms, where the Inhabitants do not present us with that Variety of Characters and Incidents with which this Country so superiorly abounds. Of this Foreigners are now become so sensible, that the Resort of the most judicious and enlightened among them to England, has of late been much more frequent than formerly; and even among the genteel and fashionable People abroad, a Tour to this Island is beginning to be deemed an almost necessary Article of Improvement.

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THE FRENCH.

THE FRENCH, our nearest Neighbours, and most dangerous Rivals, are the Nation it imports us to know best after our own. It is not three Centuries since they emerged from Ignorance and Barbarity, in which they were plunged still deeper than ourselves; and from whence they were much longer in compleating their Deliverance. Their Minds, Manners, Laws, Customs, Government, and Religion, were gross and absurd, to a Degree scarcely credible. The different Parts of that vast Kingdom, were like so many distant Countries, between which the Communication was almost impracticable; and none but Armies, or very numerous Bodies of Men, and those well armed, and provided with all Necessaries

faries for Subsistence, (much in the Nature of the Caravans that traverse the Wilds of Asia at this Day) durst venture to undertake a Journey of any considerable Length. Whoever was obliged to travel the Space of but half a Score Leagues alone, was always careful to make a Will previous to so perilous an Enterprize; as the Dangers he was liable to encounter rendered his Return very uncertain. Hence may be judged how little of Commerce and Trade was then known. The Jews who carried on the first, were few in Europe, from the unsettled Situation it was in, and the deplorable Want of almost all Kind of Police: and they whom the powerful Thirst of Gain induced to risk themselves in the midst of so much Disorder, were, from the superstitious Zeal of the Times, in continual Hazard of their Effects and Possessions. They who exercised Trade, were not in much greater Number, from the little Demand for the Conveniences of Life; the Elegancies and Luxuries of which People had hardly any Notion of. Coarse Feasting, Hunting, and rude Games of all Denominations, were then the Pastimes of the Great, with a little

the Admixture of gross Gallantry, such as one may suppose must have prevailed among Men who could neither write nor read, and whose only Merit consisted in Feats of bodily Vigour and Activity.

THE Monks who were in Possession of what Learning was then in vogue, might rather be said to have been the Keepers and Preservers of the Means of future Knowledge and Literature, than the Cultivators of either. They did little more than transcribe and transmit to better Times, the Manuscripts that fell into their Hands. An Instance of the Ignorance of the French in those Days, is that the English, who were themselves very illiterate, could yet furnish them with Preceptors and Teachers; and this at a Time when one of their most enlightened Monarchs flourished, Charles the Great, who publicly invited from this Island, the Men of Learning it had, such as they were, in order to establish what was to bear the pompous Title of the University of Paris, of which he is reputed the Founder.

FOR

FOR a Length of Years, or more properly of Centuries, the wildest and most absurd Tenets of Belief, infatuated the People of this Country; and indeed the largest Part of Christendom; where even the speculative Ideas of Things were generally inconsistent with any Shadow of Reason. Enchantment, Witchcraft, and magic Influences of all Kinds, were predominant in the Persuasion of all Classes: When the Inclemency of Seasons, or the Pest of devouring Insects had destroyed, or detrimented the Fruits of the Earth, Demons and evil Geniuses were esteemed the Perpetrators of the Mischief; and those unhappy Wretches, either Male or Female, whom Uncouthness of Figure, or Oddity of Behaviour, rendered Objects of Suspicion, found it difficult to escape the Fury of the Vulgar; who often insisted on judicial Proceedings, in order to ascertain the Guilt or the Innocence of the Parties. These judicial Proceedings were such, in all Cases, as excite, one knows not most of which, Indignation or Contempt. Such as Trials by Water, by Fire, and numberless others too tedious,

tedious, and too ridiculous to particularize. Immersion in Water (for Instance) without sinking, was fatal to the immersed, as it was reputed an Evidence of Guilt; and handling red-hot Iron without burning, was often required to clear a suspected Character. In Suits for Goods and Chattels, it was common to leave the Decision, to what was called the Judgment of the Cross, which was, in Fact, to the Strength or Adroitness of two Persons, of whom he that kept his Arms the longest outstretched, won the Cause he was fee'd to defend in this strange Manner. In public Affairs it was exactly the same. We read of two royal Competitors, who, on the Eve of Battle, agreed to adjust their Claims by this Method. As to Demoniacs, the Conviction of their Existence remained long in full Force; and even so lately as the middle of the last Century, both England and France were guilty of some shameful Enormities in this Respect. In the latter Kingdom, during the Reign of Lewis the Thirteenth, and under the Ministry of Cardinal Richelieu, (a Man whose Genius one might think would never have condescended to such

such Infamy) a dreadful Instance of Credulity was manifested at Loudun, a Town famous ever since the Story of the Devils, who, at that Time, took Possession of the Bodies of several Nuns there, at the Instigation of one Grandier, a Priest, who was legally convicted of the Crime, and executed without Mercy. A Transaction that reminds one of the horrible Infatuation which prevailed in one of our Colonies towards the Close of the last Century. The Practice of exorcising is not yet intirely obliterated in divers Provinces of France. and many are still persuaded of the frequent Agency of invisible Beings, and of the supernatural Power they are able to exert in the Behalf of those with whom they are supposed to be connected by reciprocal Compacts.

FROM this Review, which is not exaggerated, may be gathered what Opinions they entertained in the more essential Points of Religion ; which, indeed, was little better than a Heap of ceremonious Absurdities, on the one Part, and the tamest and blindest Submission to all Sorts of preposterous

terous Notions on the other. Little was generally the Difference between the Instructors and the Instructed; the most stupid Ignorance was nearly the Portion of both. It is far from improbable, that such Priests and Monks, who were guilty of carrying on Impostures (as it is likely some of them were) thought they acted a very laudable Part; and therefore piously transmitted the Fraud as a Kind of Inheritance to their Successors in Office, and possibly from similar Motives of Piety, deceived even them into a firm Conviction of what they delivered to the Crowd, as Matters of Truth. This appears the most natural Way of accounting for the Multiplicity of miraculous Events, with which the Legends of those Ages are filled, and the prodigious Number of Relics that were held so long in Veneration; for however corrupt human Nature may be in the Apprehensions of some, it seems not capable of so much Depravity as to countenance the Suspicion, that so immensely numerous a Body of Men, as the secular and regular Clergy, should have unanimously concurred in cherishing and supporting, knowingly, a tradi-

tional System of Forgery, for a Course of
-Ages.

BE that Conjecture as it may, the profound Stupidity of Mankind in those Days, rendered it easy to hatch the most extravagant Tales; and to procure them a quick Circulation among People, who were, at all Times ready to devour with open Belief, whatever was offered to them under the Sanction of Religion.

THEIR Credulity was in Fact boundless; the Histories of those Times are disgraced by perpetual Incredibilities from the romantic Turn of all who meddled with Writing. Whence it may not perhaps, be without Truth inferred, that we can no more depend on their Authenticity, whenever they descend to Particulars, than upon what more ancient Writers have delivered concerning the two or three first Ages of Rome, or the Ægyptian Priests taken upon them to record of their primitive Dynasties.

MORALITY and Devotion consisted much less in the Practice of Virtue, than
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in the scrupulous Observance of unmeaning Rites and needless Forms of Worship. Pure, manly Integrity of Life, divested of Church Farce and Scenery, was not admissible as any Proof of Goodness ; and unless a Man followed the Example of the Crowd in the Demonstration of his religious Principles, real Sanctity of Manners availed him nothing. The greatest Proof Men could give of their Piety, was by renouncing all innocent Amusements, debarring themselves from every Comfort ; and inflicting all Manner of Pains and Chastisements on their Bodies. Thus, in the Warmth of devotional Zeal, the Men would throw into the Fire all their various Implements of Pastime, and the Women all those of external Decoration. They would often shut themselves up in Retreats, and be secluded for a Length of Time, from the Conversation and Sight of Friends and Relations ; and sometimes, as an Expiation of their Sins, wear Sackcloth, or go barefoot a long Pilgrimage. Others would whip themselves with knotted Cords, or tie an Iron Chain round their Waist. Such Modes of Penance were common even

among those of the highest Rank ; a penitential Instrument of this Kind was found on the Body of Charles of Blois, when he was defeated and slain by his Competitor for the Duchy of Brittany, John of Montfort. This happened in the Times of our Edward the Third ; an Age as famous for Superstition, as for Chivalry.

To these Scenes of barbarous Ignorance, from which scarce any Part of Europe was exempt, succeeded, at last, the Dawn of Literature, soon followed by that memorable Æra of the Reformation ; the Spirit of which quickly diffused itself over all France, but met with an Opposition that involved that unhappy Country in the most bloody Contentions. The Dispute was in a Manner between Knowledge and Ignorance, and the Partisans on either Side, were equally zealous in the Cause. To such a Height did Rage and Violence arise, that Men became afraid of appearing too learned and knowing ; as the Possession of any Book out of the common Track, was dangerous to the Owner. A rigid Conformity to the most frivolous Customs

toms was insisted on; and even the least Deviation from the established Modes of Festivity, was reputed criminal. Such was the Abhorrence they were held in, who embraced the Tenets of the Reformers, that they were deemed unfit for Society; and even excluded from convivial Intercourse. All Forms of good Breeding gave Way to the Fury that animated their Enemies. Even a King of France, Henry the Second, forgot the Respect he owed to his own Majesty so far as manually to abuse in open Court, a Nobleman of the primest Rank and Dignity in his Kingdom, who had Fortitude enough to espouse their Cause in his Presence. Nor were their Monarchs themselves, when suspected of favouring the new Opinions, secure from the Hatred and Abhorrence of their People. It seemed as if the French had resolved to revive those horrible Times when the Pope's Excommunication could even deprive a Prince of his Courtiers, and render his very Domestics averse to give his Person the most necessary Attendance.

To so fatal an Extremity was this Detestation carried at last, that Royalty itself

was no longer a Safeguard from the utmost Malice and Implacability of the enthusiastic Multitude. Thus for testifying a Desire of Reconciliation with the Protestant Party, Henry the Third became odious to all his Romish Subjects, and fell a Victim, as well as his Successor Henry the Fourth, to that atrocious Zeal which rendered Murders and Assassinations meritorious when committed on the Pretext of Religion.

SUCH was the dreadful Situation of France for upwards of half a Century; and as if the Devastations effected by public Massacres had not been sufficient to satisfy the Spirit of Altercation, and quench that sanguinary Thirst for mutual Slaughter, when public Feuds had subsided by Means of the Edict of Nantz, and the Settlement of Henry the Fourth on the Throne; another Demon arose to let out the best Blood in the Nation, the Phrenzy of Duelling; from the Influence of which, no Rank, however exalted, no Condition however obscure, was any Protection; Ecclesiastics, nay even Bishops, drew their Swords in personal Quarrels. What is still more surprising, and shews in its fullest, and most forcible

forcible Light, the Prevalence of fashionable Prepossessions. Henry the Fourth himself, one of the most amiable of Men, as well as one of the greatest of Kings, was so far tainted by the general Contagion, as to offer himself (according to no contemptible Anecdote) as second to his Favourite and prime Minister the Duke of Sully, who happened to be engaged in a very serious Dispute relating to some Part of his Administration.

A SPIRIT of Quarrellousness and Contention, became at last so diffusive and universal, that it entered into the Churches and Cloysters. Priests and Monks, with their Lay-Attendants, when their Processions met in the Streets, encountered like Parties in War. Parishes were at Variance with Parishes, and Convents contended with Convents, for the Right of Precedence. This Madness infected even the Courts of Judicature, between which (beside sundry other Frays of less Consequence) a memorable Battle was fought in the very Cathedral of Nôtre Dame in Paris.

IN the mean while, Commerce and Navigation, which by the Invention of the Mariner's Compass, and the Discovery of America, were flourishing among their rival Neighbours, made but a slow Progress among them. The Reigns of Lewis the Twelfth, Francis the First, and Henry the Second, (which took up more than the first Half of the Sixteenth Century) were consumed in foreign Wars. Those of Francis the Second, Charles the Ninth, and Henry the Third, which made up the latter Part of it, were filled with civil Dissentions. The First Years of Henry the Fourth, were no less tumultuous; and though the Pacification that ensued, gave him an Opportunity to signalize his Talents and Abilities in the Art of governing his Subjects in a Manner conducive to their Happiness; yet this Period of his Reign was, unfortunately for them, of too short a Duration to lay any permanent Foundation of future Prosperity. After the lamentable Death of that excellent Prince, they relapsed into their former Broils, and their unavoidable Consequences, Disorder and Confusion throughout the whole Kingdom, and a total

tal Neglect and Oblivion of the public Welfare.

DURING the former Part of this long Æra, their Unskilfulness, or rather their absolute Ignorance of elegant Manufactures was notorious; as an Instance of which, Silk was so rare in France, that it was worn by none but royal and princely Personages. Historians mention its first Appearance there at the Solemnity of the Wedding of Henry the Second's Daughter to Philip the Second of Spain, so lately as the Middle of the sixteenth Century.

IN other Individuals the Use of it would have been esteemed an almost criminal Presumption. The Heads of the Gallican Church in their synodal Decrees forbid it the Ecclesiastics of their respective Dioceses, as a Piece of Vanity and worldly Luxury, derogating from the Sacredness and Gravity of their Functions and Character, and of a pernicious Tendency to the Morals of their Flock; by setting them an Example of Indulgence in expensive and ruinous Finery.

OTHER

OTHER Passages might be cited to shew how unimproved the French were at that Day, in the Arts of manual Dexterity, and in the Contrivance and Fabrication of the Conveniences and Embellishments of genteel Life.

THIS Defect of national Industry continued longer than the Middle of the last Century. Mean while, the Materials of their Gaiety in Apparel, which was daily increasng, were all imported from other Countries. Italy supplied them with Silk and Velvet. Holland and Flanders with Linnen; and England with Cloth; and almost every Article of Elegance and Refinement was purchased from Abroad, a Circumstance of which, Boileau takes remarkable Notice in his Writings, when celebrating the Felicity of his own Times, he mentions the Suppression of several political Evils, and of this in particular, by saying

*Les Etrangers privés de ces Tributs serviles
Que payoit à leur Art le Luxe de nos Villes.*

FOREIGNERS

FOREIGNERS were now deprived of those servile Tributes which the Luxury of France had heretofore paid to their superior Ingenuity.

SUCH was the Lot of France till the Reign of Lewis the Fourteenth, which brought about so sudden a Change in that Country and Nation, as the History of no other can parallel. From domestic Faction and Strife, they grew into Concord and Unanimity. From an almost intire Stagnation of Trade and Commerce, they engaged at once in Manufactures and Business of every Denomination; and from a total Want of Shipping, they in a short Space, extended their Navigation to every Quarter of the Globe.

THIS is truly the Epocha, when the French may be said to have rose above Water. Till this Period, neither their Industry nor their Intellects had been sufficiently exerted. Astrology was still a reigning Study; and their prime Ministers consulted its Professors and Adepts, as infallible Guides. The liberal Arts were but in
their

their Infancy; and philosophical Knowledge had scarce any Existence. The principal Part of their Learning consisted in the Intelligence of Greek and Latin; and till the Establishment of the French Academy, which was but a few Years before, they had not cultivated their own Language, with any Degree of Success.

AT length a judicious and active Administration taking Place, after the Troubles of the Minority of Lewis the Fourteenth, set themselves immediately to Work, in order to render palatable to the Taste of the French Nation, the great Change in its political Constitution, effected under the two preceding Ministries of Cardinals Richelieu and Mazarin; whose Designs to raise the regal Authority above all Controul, had been perfectly compleated by the Annihilation of all Power in the Nobility, and the absolute Reduction of the Protestant Party to the most unlimited Obedience. The gaining these two Points left the Court no other Views to pursue, than to convince the People by a good Government, that this Revolution was for their Interest. Colbert,

bert, perhaps the greatest Minister we read of either in ancient or modern History, was the Man pitched upon to execute this Plan; which he conducted with a Wisdom equal to the Importance of the Task. Assisted by the Advice of those in whom his own great Sagacity taught him to confide, he was at the same Time no less attentive and solicitous to open Channels of Information from all Quarters, by admitting to his Acquaintance and Familiarity the Men of Knowledge and Genius, from whose Conversation he could receive any beneficial Hints, and by refusing the Acceptance of no Projects whenceever they might come. Supplied with such Helps, and endowed with a Vigour and Steadiness of Soul, that could foresee and resolve to encounter Difficulties, he boldly entered upon the laborious Career of not only reforming Abuses, but of settling the whole System of the Kingdom's internal Oeconomy on a Footing new and different in every Respect from the former: In a Word, of altering universally the Face of Things throughout the whole Realm. To compass this, the most indefatigable and minute At-
tention

attention was turned to those Arts and Improvements that were flourishing in other Countries. All Kinds of Industry were practised to pry into the Secrets of foreign Dexterity ; and an indispenfible Determination was taken to rouse, at any Cost, the Ingenuity and the Emulation of Individuals, by Immunities and Rewards proportioned to the Degree of Merit they should acquire in their respective Branches. That no Sort of Lustre might be wanting to this great Undertaking, it was resolved that Learning and Literature should also meet with the amplest Recompence and Honours ; and that all Europe should be compelled, by the most glaring Evidence, to confess the superior Felicity and Grandeur of France, to whatever it had enjoyed in any preceding Reign.

Thus Men of Science and Ability, were invited from all Parts, and most bountifully patronized. Artists of all Denominations were encouraged to settle in France, by the most generous Munificence, and supported at the public Expence, in forwarding and bringing to Perfection, the various Arts, Inventions,

Inventions, and Manufactures they were expert in. No useful, no agreeable Talent remained unprotected; and nothing was omitted that could any Ways conduce to the Profit, or to the Reputation of the Kingdom.

UPON this Occasion, it may not be improper to remark that Kingdoms and States usually make the most shining Figure, immediately after their Deliverance from domestic Feuds. Not only France, but its Rival, England, precisely at the same Time, rose from amidst the Ruins of civil Distractions, and became more flourishing than ever. Germany too, long torn with intestine Broils, was recovering Vigour, and acquiring new Strength and Consideration. Whence it appears, that however fatal Diffentions are while they continue, they never fail to give Birth to prosperous After-Times; as when the Fermentation is over, and Tranquility restored, the Abilities that are always called forth in those Seasons of Hurry and Confusion, must still find some Vent, after these have subsided; and the Purposes to which they were employed,

ployed, subsisting no longer, they must necessarily be directed to others of a more serviceable Nature to the Public. The Activity which before was busied in Factions and Intrigues, is turned to commercial or to military Schemes ; and the State is thereby supplied with abundant Means of carrying on its Navigation, and trading Enterprises with Fervour and Alacrity, or of meeting a War with Spirit, and well grounded Hopes of Success. Even those Arts, whose Existence and Cultivation belong more properly to the Tuition of Peace, are still benefited by that general Aptitude and Propensity to Employment and Action, naturally produced by internal Commotions, and which have always been experienced to survive them in a most salutary Degree.

THUS, to cite an Instance from ancient as well as modern History, Rome never attained to the Summit of Power and Magnificence, till that final Pacification and Settlement of Things, which gave the Empire to Augustus, and enabled the Romans, now freed from Discord, to exert their

their Capacity in the whole Circle of Arts and Sciences, and to render themselves as illustrious by their Eminence in all polite and elegant Pursuits and Accomplishments, as they were formidable by their Arms and Conquests.

FROM this justly celebrated Epocha of Louis the fourteenth's Reign, the French may be considered as quite another Nation; their Genius, Ideas and Manners then underwent so thorough and radical an Alteration, as would render inapplicable to the present Race, the Reflections that would be true in regard to their Ancestors.

As much as the latter, from a Consciousness of their Freedom, were apt to be restive and untractable, and ready to break out in opposition to Government, their Descendants are become supple and obedient without Measure; and tho' Representations, or rather Supplications, are sometimes made to the Throne, by such whose legal Functions intitle them to that Liberty, yet the main Body of the People

are tame and passive in their Expectations of seeing any Grievances redrest; and have nothing of that Promptitude to proceed farther, than bare Complaints, of which the seditious Nobility of former Days knew so well how to avail themselves.

FROM this universal Depression of all Classes, they retain little of that Boldness and Fortitude of Speech for which they once were so renowned; and in whatever relates to public Affairs, rather insinuate, than declare their Minds.

THO' they excel in every Species of intellectual Endowments, and yield to no People in the Advantages resulting from a polite Education, yet they seem to value themselves much more on the Ability they derive from thence of making themselves acceptable, and admired in Company and Conversation, than intent on using those valuable Acquisitions on nobler and more serious Occurrences.

TRUE it is, indeed, that Opportunities of this Sort cannot be so frequent in an abso-

absolute Monarchy, as in a free Country; but as there still remain some, they who are stinted to them should, for that very Reason, lay themselves out to improve them to the utmost.

BUT this is far from being the Case with the French; who, whenever Occasions offer to display their Talents in discoursing pertinently on Matters of State, seem rather studious to avoid giving offence to the higher Powers, than solicitous to handle the Subject with Fullness and Propriety; and therefore content themselves with cautious Indications of what might be said; and shun those deep Disquisitions into Things, which, however they might evince the Capacity of the Speaker, would certainly render him obnoxious to those whose Friendship and Favour he prefers to the dangerous Honour of being esteemed a Man of Eloquence and Resolution.

Thus the frequent Harangues made in their Parliaments, or, to stile them more properly, their Courts of Judicature,

cature, and in their provincial Assemblies of the States, favour but little of Strength and Firmness ; though the Language may be laboured and refined, and the Rules of Rhetoric observed with great Accuracy and Precision, they are absolutely void of that Energy of Thought, which even when alone can give Life to the commonest Words ; but without which all the Powers of Diction are fruitless and insipid.

NOTWITHSTANDING the Parade that is made in France of the Beauties of those Speeches, they can please no Person conversant in manly, solid Eloquence, such as disdains to be be fettered by any other Regulations than those of Truth and Argument.

To speak however, of these Performances with Impartiality, it must be allowed that sometimes (not often indeed) one meets with such as have their Merit ; but it is at most of the secondary Kind. Elegance it may be called but not Eloquence. It may participate of the Wit
and

and Politeness of a Pliny in his Panygeric ; but not of the Force and Grandeur of a Demosthenes or a Cicero in their Orations.

FROM these Premises it follows that whatever Magnanimity the French may possess on all other Emergencies, such as in the usual Concerns of Life between Individuals, or in a military Capacity, (in both which Instances it were Injustice to deny them a very honourable Share of Courage and Spirit) yet in a civil and a political Light, they are amazingly degenerated ; and are fallen to a Degree of Pusillanimity and Abjection equally low with that of any European Nation whatever ; for tho' Forms of Law still remain, their Validity cannot preponderate against Court Favour ; which, whoever can secure, may bid Defiance to all the Laws and Judges of the Kingdom.

THIS they are so well aware of, that all who have any Affair in Litigation, are much more anxious to procure Friends

and Supporters among those who are known to have the Ear of Men in Power, than in preparing Arguments against the Day appointed for the Trial of their Cause; sure of winning it, however weak the latter may be, provided they are seconded by the Countenance and Protection of the former.

THE great Wish and Study therefore of a Frenchman is to ingratiate himself with the Grandees, and what they rightly call *les Puissances*, those who are invested with the Offices and Authority of the State; to obtain some Portion of which, is the capital Aim of every Man who aspires at any Degree of Consideration.

IN order to compass this their favourite Object, they employ a World of Arts and Finesses. Complaisant, and even submissive to those who are much their Inferiors, but whose Malevolence might obstruct their Designs, they will stoop to the seemingly most insignificant Helps. Dextrous in seizing every Occasion to pay their Court, they neglect none of those
trifling

trifling Opportunities of making themselves agreeable, which, if not leading directly to the Point ultimately proposed, are yet, perhaps, in reality, of as much Efficacy as others apparently more to the Purpose.

No People are, certainly, more indefatigable and ardent in the Prosecution of their Fortune and Advancement, especially when labouring to obtain a Rank that will procure them Importance and Sway; when engaged in such a Pursuit their Ambition overcomes all other Considerations, and there is often nothing they will not make a Sacrifice of, to accomplish that enchanting End.

In this Respect, they differ prodigiously from most other People, who have usually some Spot of Reserve, some Sanctuary on which no Views of Interest are able to incroach. But a Frenchman gives up all for the Sake of Vanity; and Mistresses, Wife, or Daughter, are too frequently parted with as a Price for Court Favour.

So unnatural and so scandalous a Condescension is owing to that universal Spirit of Gallantry which peculiarises the French, and utterly extinguishes that Warmth of Attachment to any particular Person which leads one to prefer the Possession of her to all other Wishes and Expectations. Hence, there is but little of what deserves the Name of Love in France; where a desultory Change of Objects of Affection, renders Constancy a mere Exotic; and quickly dissolves those Ties that are so much more seriously formed, and durably maintained, among other less volatile Nations.

AND yet, notwithstanding the French are, in common, so little capable of Attachment to any Woman in particular, they are most sincerely devoted to the Frequentation of the fair Sex in general; the Charms of whose Society constitute their Summum Bonum, their chief and supreme Pleasure and Happiness, much more than that of any other People. Whatever belongs to Taste and Refinement

ment is submitted to their Decision; and they are unanimously allowed to be, without Controul and Appeal, the Connoisseurs and Umpires in all that relates to Delicacy and Elegance.

BUT as no Advantage is without some Inconveniency, this Communication between the Sexes, though it polishes, and renders them more sociable, yet, when carried to the Excess it is in France, cannot fail to be productive of some Evil. By this perpetual Concomitance of the Women Gravity is almost effaced in the Men; while, from the same Cause, Modesty and Softness of Behaviour have, in the fair Sex, given way to a Vivacity and Forwardness that can only become the other. At length, by a gradual Progression, the Women have with few Exceptions assumed the same Degrees of Liberty that were heretofore the Privilege of Men only; and especially among the Quality, abandon themselves to Licentiousness with less Shame and Reserve than any other Women in Europe. In France a Lady's Lover, or rather Gallant, is as well known as her Husband

Husband; and she is often more disparaged by her Infidelity to the former, while the Connexion between them subsists, than by her Falshood to the latter; who sees and submits to all his Wife's Proceedings with great Composure and Resignation, or rather with great Indifference and Carelessness; and is too complaisant ever to seem informed of what is passing; many of Them indeed, are only apprehensive lest their Wives should bestow their Favours on Men of a despicable Character, or of a disagreeable Person.

THE French are strangely prone to value People on account of their Family Descent; and whatever Jest the Natives of some other Countries may expose themselves to in consequence of that ridiculous Foible, the French are no ways inferior to them in their Pretensions to Importance and Dignity from similar Motives.

THE Word *Noblesse* is never pronounced in France, without a Kind of Emphasis, fully denoting their Respect and Consideration

deration for that Class of Society to which the Denomination is appropriated, and almost approaching to the reverential Pause of Homage and Awe, observable in the great Philosopher Mr. Boyle whenever he mentioned the supreme Being.

THIS Idea of Excellence superior to the Rest of Mankind, a Frenchman gives the fullest Scope to, when speaking of Persons of Birth; the countless Numbers of whom, dispersed over all France, instead of convincing Men of the Futility of such Kind of Merit, is on the contrary, through the most unaccountable Delusion, esteemed by the Natives a Proof of the Illustriousness of their Nation. One often hears the Individuals of a Province enumerating the many noble Families it contains, and glorying over the Inhabitants of those which, however more populous, rich, and commercial, have not such high Names to boast of. This Infatuation is so universally prevalent, that even Domestics think themselves intitled to Notice and Regard in proportion to the Quality and Grandeur of their Masters; those who

who happen to belong to the principal Families, are as proud of their Livery, as if it were a Badge of Honour and Distinction; and pretend to as much Defe-
 rence at least, as a *bon Bourgeois*, a substantial Citizen.

WHILE the Plebeyans pay so willing a Tribute of Reverence and Submission to Persons of noble Blood, well may these raise a Superstructure on such a ready Foundation; and avail themselves of so excessive a Prepossession in their Favour. This they are very careful to do on every Occasion that offers of displaying the great Sense they cherish of their own Worth and Consequence. Not only the Dignitaries of the military, but also those of the ecclesiastical List, (most of both whom are Members of the Noblesse) are equally elate on account of their Birth, and so forward in giving the most ridiculous Proofs of their Vanity, that even Bishops have been known to disdain the Society of some of their Brethren, whose Origin was ignoble.

THERE

THERE is no Fear of ever seeing among the French Ladies of Quality, those Instances of base Alliances by Matrimony, which happen sometimes in England. A French Lady thinks herself rather condescending, when she accepts of the Hand of a Gentleman of the long Robe; and some carry their Notions so high as to deem it less disgraceful to live in a State of Gallantry with a Man of their own Rank, than of lawful Wedlock with one beneath it. In short, these strange Ideas operate so forcibly, and so generally, that a Husband, among Persons of Fashion, however willing to wink at his Wife's Amours, would never forgive her if she were to admit to her Embraces any one of a Condition inferior to his own. And in consequence he treats, with more or less of Tenderneſs, the Fruit of her illicit Connexions, according as he fancies it is nobly or meanly descended.

HOWEVER, to do the Nobility of France full and proper Justice, they are indisputably a Body of brave and gallant Men; there

there is no Nation that produces a more martial Set of Individuals; the only Occupation of those who belong not to the Church, being that of War; which they look upon as the natural, and most eligible Employment for a Man of Birth; and in conformity to this Persuasion, respect the Nobility of other Countries proportionably to the Inclination they shew for the same Profession.

VOLTAIRE, in his *Henriade*, has truly described them, when he says the Character of a French Courtier (Noblemen in France are all Courtiers) is to indulge himself at home, in all the Pleasures of Peace and Plenty, without receiving the least Tincture of Degeneracy; ready, at a Moment's Warning, to display the most daring Intrepidity, and after acting the meanest Parts of Adulation and Servility at Court, eager to fly from a Round of Delights to the Field of Hardships and Danger.

THE Gentlemen of the long Robe (with us the Lawyers and Gownmen) are a
Medium

Medium between the Noblesse and the Commonalty. But whatever Merit they may possess, and that of some is of the most consummate Eminence, as it is among them the prime Patriots are found, yet as the Sword is not their Appurtenance, their Worth is esteemed but at a secondary Rate.

THE Truth is, that as the Chief and indeed, sole Opposition to ministerial Measures proceeds from that Quarter, the Court finds its Account in conniving at the Disregard they meet with from the Noblesse; or to speak more truly and properly, encourages People to undervalue them. Nor is it surprising it should, on all occasions, affect to treat them with Haughtiness and Slight. As its Authority is maintained by other Means than those of Equity and Law, and is often exerted against the Sense and Judgment of the Parliaments in France, and in open Defiance and Contempt of their repeated Advice and Remonstrances, the Members who compose these Assemblies cannot expect to enjoy the Consideration and Deference paid to similar

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Conventions of Men in free Countries, whose Power and Independance, by securing them from such tyrannical Usage enables them to make good their Pretensions to Dignity and Weight. They are, therefore, allowed no more Consequence than a haughty and imperious Ministry is willing to bestow, and never vouchsafes to deal out much of, unless to those on whom it relies for Support.

HENCE, the Gownmen in France, tho' highly revered by all their thinking Countrymen, as the truest and staunchest Friends to the Public, are in a State of Depression, and looked on with a jealous Eye, by the ruling Powers, who seem to delight in mortifying them as much as they dare, consistently with the public Repose.

THESE Gentlemen of the long Robe, however grave their Business and Occupations, cannot divest themselves in general, of that Airiness of Port and Demeanour, which in a Manner, seems born and inherent in a Native of France.

Numbers

Numbers of them are the downright Apes of the Courtiers; whose Festivity of Deportment, and Smartness of Speech, they labour to copy with an Affectation highly prejudicial to their Character; and which contributes not a little to that Inferiority in which they are held; as a servile Imitation of others, is a tacit Avowal of their Superiority.

THE Juniors of that Profession do not prepossess Foreigners with very high Notions of the French Magistracy. Their continual Endeavours to appear facetious and pleasant; the studied Spruceness of their Equipages; the Finicalness of their Apparel; the Juvenility of their personal Behaviour, and their manifest Admiration of, and Passion to excel in what constitutes the *bon Ton*, Summit of the Mode, cannot fail to render them completely ridiculous in the Eye of a judicious Spectator.

THESE young Magistrates live in all the Voluptuousness that Opulence can give

Birth to. In Town have their Palaces, and in the Country, Elysian Retreats ; where they enjoy themselves in the *Luxu erudito*, in all the learned Luxury of a Petronius ; with whom many of them can vie in the Study and Experience of the most refined Methods of making Pleasure the principal Business of their Lives.

NEXT to the Dignitaries of the Law, those who shine most in France, by the Influence and Importance of their Station, are the Farmers-General and Financiers ; the richest Individuals of their Kind throughout all Europe. In former Days this was their only Commendation ; but they too, have altered like all the rest ; and instead of being solely occupied in amassing Treasures, they have learned another Lesson, that of spending them with Splendor, and sometimes with Profusion.

NOTWITHSTANDING the Suspicions to which they are universally liable among their Countrymen, Numbers of them are Men of the strictest Integrity, and make it their Study to merit, and obtain the Esteem

teem of the World, by the Irreproachableness of their Conduct in their respective Departments, and their Generosity in the Intercourses of Friendship and Society. Many of them patronise Literature; and most of them live in a liberal, hospitable Manner; and by their Prudence, and courteous Behaviour, deserve and possess the familiar Acquaintance and Consideration of the first Men in the Kingdom.

BUT as these Gentlemen are conscious that Riches, however immense, do not carry with them that intrinsic Value in France, which some other Nations allow them, they, for that Reason consider them principally in the Light of Ways and Means to arrive at Honours and Distinctions. Hence, though Nobility is usually the Recompenſe of military Merit, yet as there are also other Methods of obtaining it, and as every Frenchman wishes to be some Sort of a Noble, they, and indeed all who have acquired Wealth, make a Point of purchasing some of those nominal Employments, which confer the Right of Noblesse on their Incumbents, and enable

ble them to appear in the *beau Monde* with an Advantage that Money alone cannot procure in France,

THE French Clergy ought already to have been mentioned, as a Class of Men of equal Importance with the Nobility itself, by the Influence they so diffusively exert over the Minds of the Generality of People; and by the Immensity of their Numbers, which compose a most formidable Body in the spiritual Field of Government; and help amazingly to keep the French Nation in Order and Subjection. The Regularity of their Lives is undeniable, and their indefatigable Diligence and Labour in the Duties of their Function, equally remarkable. No Clergy, ours not excepted, taking more, if so much Pains, in the Instruction of those who are committed to their Charge.

THIS, in general, is the Character they have a Right to claim; and whoever is well acquainted with the State of Things in France, must often have been witness to the Reality of what is here asserted.

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THERE are, however, many who assume their Dress, and yet may be accounted neither Ecclesiastics nor Laymen ; whose Business is to wait for Preferment come whence ever it may. These, called *Abbés*, who are very numerous, being restricted by no particular Rules, lead many of them a Life of Dissipation and Libertinism, devote themselves as much, or more than any set of Men, to the Society of the fair Sex ; and become no few of them celebrated for the Favours of every Kind, which they receive from their Predilection, as no Men in France can vie with them in the Arts of Flattery, and the Talent of insinuating themselves into a Female's good Graces.

NOTWITHSTANDING the Numbers and Credit of Ecclesiastics of all Denominations in France, the Natives have much less of that Bigotry which infects other Romish Countries ; and a punctilious Attachment to Modes of Worship, is far from being so prevalent among them. This no Doubt is owing to the long Toleration of Protestantism,

tism, which, though banished, has still left some strong Remains that will never be totally eradicated; if even one may not venture to say that so enlightened a Nation will not very long continue in its present Situation, with regard to Matters of Religion.

THERE is one Particularity wherein the French, and all other European Nations, of whatever Persuasion, differ essentially from the English, and that is the Manner in which they meet Death. The English, whether high or low, usually preserve an Intrepidity and Calmness in their last Moments, which is the Wonder of all Strangers, who are little accustomed to such Scenes among their own Countrymen.

THE French, whether from a superior Sensibility they feel for the Enjoyments of this Life, or whether from a Spirit of religious Pusillanimity, are commonly very averse to the Thoughts of dying. The latter seems, however, the principal Cause of this Aversion. Stifled or forgotten while at a Distance from the Grave, it breaks out on their Approaches to it; and they
too,

too generally become absolutely ridiculous on those Occasions, from the minute Solitude they betray in the careful Practice of every ceremonious Trifle enjoined by their Tenets; the full and circumstantial Observance of which, their Ecclesiastics are, at such Times, so peculiarly zealous in promoting and enforcing, that nothing but the Piety of their Intentions, and the Sincerity of their Belief in the Necessity of all this superstitious Apparatus, can excuse the troublesome Officiousness of most of them; who seem not to reflect that it is a Man's Life, and not the Manner of his Death, on which his Hopes or his Fears are to be founded.

THIS anxious Imbecillity often renders a dying Frenchman the Prey of those watchful, alert Friars, who go about comforting the Sick, and extorting from their Purfes those Donations and Largeffes which contribute so materially to their Subsistence. From this Fund of Apprehensions and Terrors, flows the Disbursement of no trifling Sums to defray the Charges of the many thousand Masses, with which their last

Wills are so frequently overburdened. Whence it may be inferred, that these unmanly Weaknesses prevail not only among the poor and illiterate, but even among those, who by their Education or Knowledge of the World, might have learned to shake off so shameful a Load. But as if Debility of Soul in their latter Hour was a Characteristic of the French Nation, it is precisely among their *grands Seigneurs*, the prime Men in the Realm, we meet with the most glaring Instances of those Death-bed Devotees; it is no uncommon Thing to see a Minister of State, hackneyed for Years in all the Infamies and Iniquities of a Court, acting over all these Mummeries, and thinking thereby to secure himself a favourable After-Reckoning.

It must however be confessed, the French are not the only People deserving of those Strictures, as they are still more applicable to some of their southern Neighbours.

THERE is a Species of Beings in which France abounds; and of which it has sent forth numerous Colonies into other Countries,

tries, ours especially, in the Persons of many of those who visit it on Pretext of Improvement, these are what the French call *Petits Maitres*; a Race well known in England by the Appellation of Fops and Coxcombs.

THE Derivation of the French Title is not very ancient, it took its Rise during the Troubles of the Minority of Lewis the Fourteenth, from the Haughtiness and Arrogance of those who headed the Opposition against the Court, and who, elated with the Success they had at first, grew so presumptuous in their Behaviour, and so important in their own Conceit, as to become equally the Subjects of Hatred and Derision.

By a *Petit Maitre* is now generally understood one whose Aim is either to appear more knowing and judicious, or of more Weight and Consequence than others; or to differ from them so strikingly, as to attract their particular Attention.

Thus Superiority of Wit and Discernment, and a refined Delicacy of Taste, is
what

what some are fond of inculcating a Persuasion of their fully possessing. Others who are more conscious of their Deficiency in these Respects, and have not Effrontery enough to avow such Claims, endeavour to make themselves considerable by an Enumeration of their pretended Friends in high Life, with whose Acquaintance and Familiarity, they are perpetually making free in their Discourses. Others, for want of better Means of recommending themselves to Notice, affect a Singularity in their Apparel. Some again labour to attain this End by a Peculiarity of Behaviour: These make it consist in their Tone of Voice and Modulation of Speech; those in their Gait, and others in their Aspect. They leave, in short, no Oddity untried, and seem no less pleased in being distinguished from the rest of Mankind by Dint of insipid, and offensive Personalities, than if they had acquired a Reputation founded on superior Talents and Qualifications.

THOUGH France is not the only Country that produces such Characters, yet as it affords the completest Originals in the Kind,

Kind, and of which other Nations exhibit but faint, unequal Copies, it is doing the French no Injustice to mention them as more liable to Animadversion for these Foibles, than any other People.

SPRUCENESS, and what may be stiled the Tip of the Mode, is what the French delight in adhering to with the strictest Conformity. In order to effect this Purpose, every Thing else is neglected in the Article of Dress, that plain Reason and common Sense would otherwise suggest. Whatever is reputed fashionable among the Great, becomes equally so among the inferior Classes; who if they cannot imitate their Superiors in Costliness of Garb, will yet bestow a Similarity of Cut and Form on the most wretched Materials. Exclusive of the usual Coarseness of their Apparel, they are as careless of it as a Grandee, whose Wardrobe affords him an endless Change. But this Variety is seldom the Case of the Commonalty in France, whose Stock is generally very stinted. Though a Parade of tinsel Finery accompanies it, their Ingenuity has a fatiguing Task to give it

it an Appearance of Renovation, whenever an Alteration of the Mode requires it; and if a Jest may be permitted on the Narrowness of People's Circumstances, there was some room for the Comparifon a Foreigner once made at Paris, that a French Coat often underwent as many Contrivances to enable its Owner to face the Metamorphoses occasioned by the Mutability of Taste, as Diogenes's Tub (according to Rabelais) underwent Positions to shelter its Master from the Diversity of Wind and Weather.

CLEANLINESS is by no Means so much consulted in France, as it is in England; which by the unanimous Acknowledgment even of those Strangers who are least disposed to favour us, is the true Seat of Decency in all its Branches. The Dutch are finically clean; and submit to the most slavish Perpetuity of Labour, to maintain that Appearance of Neatness, which all who have seen that Country are so justly surprised at. But there are essential Exceptions to this Rule, and such as they have no Plea for, an unpardonable Neglect of
of

of their Persons, and an affected Rusticity of Apparel. No Nation is so completely neat, both in their Cloathing and Furniture, as the English, who make it, in a Manner, their Business to be all of a Piece. Very different in this Respect from most other People, especially the French ; many of whom, while they exhibit themselves abroad, *Nitidos et comptos a capsula totos* (as Seneca expresses himself of the Beaux and Fribbles of his Days) as spruce and fine as their Toilet can make them, leave such Homes behind them as our commonest Tradesmen would be loath to dwell in.

The French boast loudly of the Superiority of Architecture which Paris possesses over London. But it should be considered that this is chiefly owing to the immense Quarries of Stone in its Neighbourhood. In all that depends on the Exertion of Industry, they fall far short of the English. The Insides of those Houses, whose Out-sides are so grand, abounding with Proofs how much more just and proper our Notions are of what appertains to the Utility, the Convenience, and the Elegancy of domestic Life.

ON the other Hand the Environs of Paris form a strong Contrast to those of London; and are an unanswerable Argument of the greater Progress of Prosperity among our People; proceeding not more from the Difference of Government, than of Genius. That of the French seems not to be calculated for the Continuity and Perseverance of Toil and Application necessary to bring Agriculture to Perfection; while the English, on the contrary, have an ample Fund of those Qualities. From these Causes, as much as from Oppression, the French Peasantry live in a State of Indigence and Poverty, utterly unknown among the English. Hence their Buildings and Plantations, differ so widely from those in England; where Compactness and Plenty of good Furniture characterise the first, and the utmost Efforts of Cultivation embellish the last. While in France one meets with few but sordid Houses miserably furnished, and extensive Tracts of Ground, unskillfully laid out, and wretchedly tilled. Such in common is the Aspect of the Land throughout this large Kingdom; where the
Eye

Eye travels on, with little or no Relief from that Variety of Culture, that Interperfusion of Gentlemen's Seats, and substantial Farms, of arable Land, Meadows, Gardens, and Inclosures, that so beautifully diversify the Face of our Country, and prove it inhabited by a Race of Men, much better acquainted with the Means of procuring an easy and a comfortable Life.

ANOTHER Proof of our Superiority in useful Improvements, is that our very Diversions carry with them an Air of Elegance, which the French, who are certainly as fond of agreeable Pastimes as the English, have not yet arrived at, in the midst of all that Ostentation which accompanies their Pleasures. They have neither a Ranelagh, a Vauxhall, nor even a Marybone, nor indeed any Amusement of the Kind comparable to them in Point of true Politeness; and where, after the Fatigues of Business, the Gentleman, the Merchant, the Citizen, may, without any Impropriety of Character, and at a very moderate Expence, indulge themselves in a most charming and most rational Entertainment.

PARIS has however, one manifest Advantage over London, in the Number and Decorations of its public Gardens. But neither the Tuilleries, the Luxembourg, nor the Palais-Royal, can, in all the Days of the Year, equal that Exhibition, which, on any fair Sunday, enchants all those who walk in our Park; which in the Opinion of all Foreigners, as well as our own People, can boast such an Assemblage of beautiful Women as far surpasses whatever is to be seen in other Countries.

It is not meant by this Observation to depreciate the Women of France; to many of whom may be applied, without the least Flattery, the Distich that Sapho ascribes to herself,

*Si mihi difficilis Formam Natura negavit,
Ingenio Formæ Damna rependo meæ.*

If partial Nature has denied me Beauty, the Charms of my Mind amply make up for the Deficiency.

No

No Women upon Earth can excel, and few rival them in their almost native Arts of pleasing all who approach them. Add to this, an Education beyond that of most European Ladies; a consummate Skill in those Accomplishments that suit the Fair Sex; and the most graceful Manner of displaying that Knowledge to the utmost Advantage.

SUCH is the Description that may safely be given of the French Ladies in general; happy, if the Spirit, or rather the evil Genius of Gallantry, did not too often pervert all these lovely Qualities, and render them subservient to very iniquitous Ends.

HAPPY too it were, if we could remain meer Spectators of the Mischiefs wherewith that evil Genius has so long afflicted France, and seems of late Years, more and more to threaten England. Hitherto our good Fortune has protected us from the scandalous Degree of the Contagion prevailing in that Nation. May as little of it as possible in the Nature of Things, find its Way into this Island, and may our fair

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Countrywomen still merit and preserve, not only the Reputation of being the most beautiful of their Sex, but also that much nobler Praise, of being the most perfect and amiable Patterns of Modesty ; without which the Possession of exterior Charms, is but an Encouragement to Infamy, and an Invitation to those Excesses of Depravity that sink human Nature to its lowest Debasement.

OF THE
ITALIANS.

THE Modern ITALIANS addict themselves to the Theory of Politics, as much as their Ancestors did to the Practice of War; no European Nation having produced a greater Number of political and historical Writers, many of them very worthy of Perusal. And yet, whatever considerable Advancements have been made by Individuals in the Science of Government, we do not find their Countrymen much benefited by their Labours: Few Countries in Europe being worse governed, and no People, in many Parts, more wretched. There are but two States, if the second of them deserve the Name, Lucca, and St. Marino, where the Happiness of the Community is properly consulted. All the others are enslaved either

by Despotism or Aristocracy ; both equally oppressive to their respective Subjects, and as jealous of, and ready to maintain Authority, by all the unwarrantable Arts of private Severity, as by the public avowed Methods of open Force.

HENCE, the Italians, though inferior to no People whatever in the native Endowments of Genius and Sagacity, are prevented from exerting them by the Fetters which the destructive Weight of undue Powers naturally throws on all the human Faculties. Sense and Valour, Numbers of them possess in an eminent Degree. Many of the most material Improvements in modern military Knowledge are due to them. Some of the greatest Generals in later Ages, such as a Spinola, a Montecuculi, and others, were born in this Country, as well as some of the greatest Philosophers, and most celebrated Professors of Literature ; and more, no doubt, would have been produced, if Superstition on the one Hand, and Tyranny on the other, did not equally contribute to depress those Abilities, which
nothing

nothing but Freedom of Mind and Body can bring to Maturity.

SUCH is the Condition of Italy at this Day. Three Centuries ago it was the Scene of Resurrection to every liberal Art. While the rest of Europe was plunged in the Depth of Ignorance and Barbarity, polite Learning was cultivated here with the utmost Success. So superior were the Italians to all their European Neighbours, that they spoke of them as the Greeks and Romans were wont to do of all other Nations, by the Style and Appellation of Barbarians; and it was usual in the epistolary Correspondence of the Italian Literati at that Time, to mention Foreigners by scarce any other Designation.

HOWEVER, to consider Things impartially, it was more to their Situation, than to their own Efforts and Capacity, they owed this Revival of ancient Learning. Had not their Neighbours, the Greeks, been driven by the Turkish Arms, and Conquests into Italy, and brought with them the only Property they had left, that of Books and

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Knowledge,

Knowledge, the Italians might have remained as illiterate and barbarous, as the Nations to whom they were so liberal of these Epithets.

WITH all these Acquisitions, their Progress in Science was far from manly, and such as could reflect Honour on its Adepts. Machiavel, who flourished at that Period, gathered few Maxims out of the profound Erudition he was Master of, but such as ought to procure Extermination to their Abettors. And though many of his Writings are excellent, it is principally when he assumes the Character of an Historian; for his Politics (it is notorious) are become a Term of Reproach to all their Advocates.

It must, however, be acknowledged that the Arts of modern Policy, originated from Italy. And though at first very imperfect and inhuman, many of them being founded on mere personal Self-Interest, yet, by Degrees, they were cleared of their grossest, and most capital Errors; and were practised, not unsuccessfully, in some of their republican States, especially at Venice; where, during

during a long Period, the Burden of an Aristocracy was moderated by the Prudence and Lenity of some illustrious Individuals. The People grew rich and happy, through the Extensiveness of their Trade, and the equitable Administration of their Rulers ; And the State itself became so powerful, as to excite the Jealousy of the principal Monarchs and Potentates in Europe ; by whom a League was formed against them, much from the same Motives as those which induced Lewis the Fourteenth of France, to attack the Dutch ; who, by an Imitation of the Example set them by the Venetians in the Methods of a diffusive Commerce, and a wise Government, had attained to an equal Height of Prosperity ; which gave Rise to a Degree of Envy that involved them in a like Storm of Danger.

Not long before this Period of the Revival of Letters, which happened about the middle of the fifteenth Century, the Italians were become the Subject of universal Ridicule, by their extraordinary, and till then, unheard of Modes of carrying on War. When their petty Princes disagreed

(and they were almost always at Variance) they sent forth Armies and Generals, whose Business was not to fight, but to meet peaceably, and adjust in a friendly Interview, how both Sides should give Battle without Slaughter. This was no difficult Matter to settle; as the Officers and Soldiers of both Parties were Hirelings, no Ways animated with any of that Fury which national Antipathy creates, and whose only View was to make a Shew of Fighting. Thus, when drawn out in Array, they would mix in Combat without giving Blows; and they who were pushed off the Field, were deemed to have lost the Day. Sometimes, indeed, when Sieges were undertaken, it became necessary to make Use of Cannon; but they were only fired at Places the Besiegers and the Besieged had previously agreed upon; and one may well imagine, Care was taken no Body should be in the Way of receiving Hurt. Neither were the Hours of Rest and Relaxation forgotten. From Sun-set till Sun-rise, they enjoyed uninterrupted Repose; and on all Sundays and Holydays (of which there was, in that Age, a much greater

greater Number than in the present) there was a total Suspension of all Hostilities, if this Word be applicable to such Farces.

THE Entrance of the Spaniards, French and Germans into Italy, put an End to those pacific Measures. It obliged them to adopt another System, and to second the Designs of the respective Nations, whose Cause they severally espoused, by following their Examples in the Prosecution of War; in which, to do them Justice, they soon became no less expert. Some of Charles the Fifth's best Troops and Commanders, were Italians.

IN Return for their military Instructions, these Nations carried Home the Science of Craft and Diffimulation; which, at that Time, was the Policy most in Vogue among the Italian Princes: And the Courts of Spain and France became the Seminary of those Politicians who disturbed their own Country, and all Europe, by Intrigues, the Drift of which was to promote Mischief, and make their own Welfare consist in the Misfortune of others.

BUT whatever Censure such Politics may deserve, it cannot be denied that we owe to the Ingenuity and Application of the Natives of Italy, the Invention and Restoration of many noble and useful Arts. They revived the Science and Skill of the Greeks and Romans in Architecture and Statuary, of which our Forefathers had no Ideas left; and which, in the Course of less than a Century, altered amazingly the Face of Europe, by filling it with magnificent Edifices, and by teaching Men to render their Dwellings equally elegant and comfortable. The Residences of the great were formerly little better than immense Dungeons, and those of the lower Sort scarce any Thing above Huts; and their Accommodations were suitably gross and rude.

To them we also are indebted for an Introduction of Taste in Music and Painting. During the Succession of many Centuries, the first had no other Rule but that of the Ear; while the second was seldom employed

ployed but to darken Rooms and Churches by a Profusion of ill fancied Representations of Things and Persons depicted on the Windows, the chief and almost only Merit of which consisted in the Liveliness and Durability of the Colours. This delightful Art had not in those unpolished, illiberal Days, been applied to one of its most agreeable Uses, that of transmitting to the View of Posterity the Resemblance of illustrious Personages, or of those an Origin from whom endears their Images to the Spectator.

THE Renewal and Improvement of these valuable Branches of Knowledge, and the Discovery of several others of no less Utility, are undoubtedly Motives of just Pride; and were it for these alone, the Italians are intitled to the Respect and Gratitude of other Nations; but they have further Claims of a still more important Nature: Excepting dramatic Performances, in which they have not hitherto made any considerable Proficiency, there is no Province in the whole Republic of Letters, wherein they have not led the Way to Excellence
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and Perfection. What is particular worth remarking, they have produced two of the three noblest modern Epic Poets, Ariosto, Tasso, and Milton, who certainly have not their Equals in any European Nation. But their Genius seems most in its true Element, when employed in History; in this Kind of Writing as complete Productions have flown from some of their Pens, as any Country of old or later Times can boast.

BUT though the Restoration of polite Learning is due to the Italians, yet the Disciples they made, in Process of Time, outstripped their Masters; and in the Course of an Age after the Reformation, England, France, and Germany were incomparably more fertile in Men of classical, and indeed all other Kind of Erudition than Italy.

ABOUT the middle of the last Century, the Cultivation of the Greek and Roman Literature, and of all Manner of liberal Knowledge began greatly to decline among the Italians; and was at the Commencement of the present so prodigiously neglected,

lected, that a most ignominious unskilfulness, not to say a downright absolute Ignorance, became general among those who by their Birth and Profession, ought to have been conversant in Books and intellectual Acquirements. A Complaint often made by the celebrated Cardinal Polignac (deputed about this Time by the Court of France to that of Rome) and who had frequent Opportunities of discovering their shameful Deficiency in these Respects.

EVEN Architecture, Painting and Sculpture partook of the Decay; and the Spirit of these noble Arts seemed to have emigrated to France, which in the Reign of Lewis the Fourteenth gained a Superiority therein which it still preserves.

THE Motives that now induce Foreigners to visit Italy are not the Performances of the present, so much as those of its former Artists; many Parts of Europe affording Men of equal, if not greater Abilities in those Professions than any it produces at this Day.

MUSIC remains, at this Period, the only Department of Genius wherein the Italians incontestably excel all other Nations; this is owing to the innumerable Churches and Chapels, to which Revenues are annexed for the Maintenance of Choirs; a Consideration that engages so many Parents to educate their Children in a Manner that may qualify them for Admittance.

THAT Part of the Italian Nation which inhabits the Country, where formerly flourished the most renowned of its Ancestors, is, by a sad Reverse of Things, become the Residence of the most degenerate of their Descendants. It is principally at Rome we find the fewest Traces of the heroic Character of the ancient Romans. Valour, Eloquence, and the Spirit of Liberty, the three Pillars on which they erected the immense Edifice of their Power and Glory, are, in a Manner, trampled upon in modern Rome; where Ignorance, Idleness, and Pusillanimity lord it over the Minds of the present Race, with very few Instances of Exception.

THE sole Inheritance they have derived from the old Romans is precisely that Portion of their Character which made them ridiculous and despicable, the Genius of Superstition, that infects whatever relates to the practical Part of their Religion; which, exclusive of the Absurdity of many of its Tenets, is here held out to the Multitude as a Matter of Pastime and Amusement, and serves to fill up the many Hours of Vacancy and Leisure resulting from a general Inactivity of Life. These Exhibitions of ecclesiastical Pageantry seem perfectly calculated to engross the Attention of the Crowd, nor less adapted to the Taste of the numerous Actors, who perform the many various Parts assigned them with remarkable Expertness and Alacrity; indeed, some of the first Members of the Community are occasionally proud of making a capital Appearance in them.

WHILE immersed in these preposterous Occupations, and thence justly become the Derision of Europe, they yet retain the Stile of that triumphant People before whom

whom the Nations trembled. The S. P. Q. R. is inscribed or carved on every Monument to which the Public has contributed; and there still subsists among them an Assembly that calls itself the Senate.

AFTER recording these Proofs of Vanity, no Body will wonder that they should not unfrequently assume Airs of Importance and Majesty, and speak of themselves as if they were the adequate Representatives of the People whose Name they have inherited.

THE Grandees at Rome, the Majority of whom are Ecclesiastics, may justly be reputed the most unhappy Persons of their Rank. The Tax they pay for Greatness far exceeds its Worth; and they are continually deprived of the most essential Comforts of Life by the Constraint and regulated Forms of Pride that accompany their most insignificant Actions, as well as by the studied Solemnity without which they are cautious never to expose themselves to the Eye of the World.

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THE ruling Passion that actuates them all is a Love of Pomp and Ostentation, which helps as much, or more than any other Cause, to consume their Revenues; but this they readily submit to from a Consciousness of the Admiration and Applause a Display of exterior Grandeur and Magnificence commands from the Public; whose principal Favourites in this Country are those who regale their Sight with Gaudinefs and Finery.

As they fet the Example, so they are closely copied by the inferior Nobility and Gentry, in a reserved, unsociable Disposition, that induces them to avoid much reciprocal Intercourse, and studiously to keep aloof, as it were, from that Sort of Festivity which consists in a Frankness and Hilarity of Manners. No People in Europe are less acquainted with what is called good Fellowship; to which their Aversion arises partly from the general Narrowness of their Circumstances, and partly from their excessive Oeconomy, not to call it Niggardlinefs, in every Kind of

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Expence, but that of Equipage ; the only Article, together with its Appurtenances of Dress and Liveries, on which they are apt to be lavish. Their chief Entertainment is to parade in their Coaches abroad, while the utmost Parsimoniousness restrains them at Home from that good Cheer and convivial Merriment, which in other Countries, render domestic Enjoyments the most valuable and attractive. But of these they know scarce any Thing more than dry uninteresting Conversations ; wherein their natural Cautiousness presides with so very oppressive an Influence, that as whatever is said in those Meetings is, by the Circumspection, or rather Timidity of the Speaker, carefully calculated to give no Sort of Offence either to Individuals, or to the Government, the same Depression of Mind deters them from launching into any Subject worthy the Attention of any Audience whatever.

THE Clergy have made this Part of Italy, their Seat of Empire ; and compose a monstrous Proportion of the Inhabitants, not only at Rome, but throughout the whole Ecclesiastical State, as the Pope's Dom-
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nions are very pertinently called. Whatever relates to Government, civil, as well as religious, is vested in the Hands of the Priests: A Race of Mortals who seem here to be considered as the only Beings fit to manage and direct all Affairs, unless it be those of the military List; wherein, however, if they do not assume the executive, they fully arrogate the directive Part. Few Employments of any Dignity or Importance, are out of their Possession; and if we except the illustrious House of the Colonnas, (which claims the Station of High Constable by Inheritance) there is not, perhaps, one noble Family, a Lay-Member of which is decorated with any Post of prime Eminence. Such is the Reverence the Clergy have had the Dexterity to propagate throughout all Classes of Men for their Order, that the highest Pinnacle of Honour and Ambition is to be considerable among them; and attain to the Preferments reserved for those only who belong to their Body. No Family esteems itself so truly distinguished and conspicuous, as when some Individual of it is a Member of the sacred College; the Title given collec-

tively to those whose Persons are known by the Name of Cardinals. This Appellation, in the Ears of a modern Roman, sounds as lofty as that of *Imperator* did among the Ancient. And as the Wishes and Endeavours of these aimed at meriting that Salutation from the Legions, the others are no less eager and indefatigable, and spare neither Pains nor Purse in procuring that Distinction from the papal Court; where the Spirit of Venality reigns with a Boldness and Uncontroul not exceeded, perhaps, even in our electioneering Scenes in England; between which and those of the Vatican the sole Disparity consists in the smaller Number of the bribed, and the less noisy and tumultuous Methods of Corruption.

SUCH are, in general, the Romans of this Day; and though some Particulars of this Description are not unapplicable to the other Italians, yet they suit with more Propriety the Character of the former, who seem to be the most remarkable for those Peculiarities that distinguish their Countrymen from other Nations.

ITALY contains an amazing Multitude of idle, and therefore needy Wretches, uninstructed in any lawful Calling, unprincipled in their Morals, and glad to embrace any Mode of Living that will exempt them from Labour. Hence the prodigious Numbers of Hangers-on about the Gates of Convents and Monasteries; the Offals of whose Tables are, at stated Times, bestowed on the Crowds of Beggars that lie in wait for them with an Avidity that must convince every Spectator how little else they have to depend on for their Subsistence. Hence too, the Respect of the Populace for the various Orders of Friars, Monks, and other Religious, of the many Denominations that fill this Country; Who are, at the same Time, to the great Detriment of Society, possessed of another Means to make themselves revered by the vilest Dregs of the Mob, the Shelter they afford to Malefactors, who are always sure of finding an Asylum in their Cloisters, or Churches, or even on the very Threshold of these, and indeed, of all Churches in most Parts of Italy.

THIS Custom of rendering Places consecrated to the Purposes of Virtue and Religion, a Sanctuary to Crimes of the blackest Dye, is the more to be execrated, and ought to meet with less Toleration in Italy than elsewhere, from the Temper and Disposition of the Natives, which is violent and fiery to an Excess that renders Homicides and Assassinations almost trivial Occurrences, and too deplorably familiarises Mankind with the Enormity of such Deeds, by their shockingly frequent Repetition.

AND yet, notwithstanding the Ferocity and bloody Mindedness, which the Perpetration of such Wickedness must naturally presuppose in the Guilty, when seized and brought to Punishment (which however, rarely happens, from the infamous Supineness of the Legislature in general throughout Italy) they turn out the most dastardly of Mortals; and with such Horrors does the Idea of Death present itself to their Apprehensions, that most of them can scarce be deemed alive at the Place of Execution. Widely different in this, from our Malefactors

Malefactors in England, who generally submit to the Decrees of Justice, with a Firmness and Intrepidity worthy of a better Cause than that for which they suffer.

NEITHER the French nor the Spaniards, are subject to that Excess of superstitious Debility which so glaringly characterises most of the Italians ; who, whenever they think their Life in Danger, in the Fright and Despondency of their Imagination, have immediate Recourse to all those Methods of Support and Consolation with which their Religion is so amply provided ; and apply with much more seeming Eagerness and Confidence than the Individuals of those two Nations, to the Protection of Masses, Relics, Saints, and every other similar Assistance recommended by their Persuasion.

HENCE we frequently meet in Italy with Scenes that remind one of the strange Behaviour of a dying King of France, Lewis the Eleventh, a Prince of a very odious Character, and whose Memory is abhorred even in his own Country. This Monarch, who was a Mixture of Bigotry

and Deceit during his whole Reign, made an End perfectly consistent with the Tenour of his past Conduct; and his Life and Death were all of a-piece. When he found his Dissolution approaching, and that all human Remedies were fruitless, he ordered his Bed to be surrounded with Shrines containing the Remains of those Saints in whose Patronage he most confided; hoping thereby, either to retard the Stroke of Death; or, what is more probable, to render its Consequences less dreadful than his Conscience told him he was liable to, by the Power and Efficacy of their Intercession in his Behalf.

FROM this Passage, and others of the like Nature though not marked with an equal Degree of Infatuation, an Inference may be drawn not favourable to the Romish Cause; which is, that from the Multiplicity of these imaginary Helps, a Man is often led to place too settled a Reliance on them; and to imagine that, from the Concurrence of so many Expedients, his Case, be it ever so bad, can never become desperate; and, if such an Expression may be permitted on so serious a Subject, that
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let his Offences have been ever so heinous, he cannot fail of a Reprieve, through the Solicitations of so many Friends and Patrons. Hence he continues in his flagitious Career, unrestrained by those Terrors which his credulous Fancy has found Means to soften or remove.

BUT of all the Instances (and many might be cited) that incontestably shew how intimately a superstitious Disposition may be reconciled and blended in the human Mind, with the most atrocious Profligacy, none is stronger than what is related of that Catiline of his Day, the infamously celebrated Borgia; who, though sullied with a Complication of the most horrible Crimes, and while his Conscience staggered, as it were, under an accumulated Load of Guilt, had yet the Assurance to provide himself with what the Romanists call an Absolution *in Articulo Mortis*, at the Point of Death: This one would suppose they look upon as a Passport against which no Exception can be taken; and that intitles the Possessor to all Manner of Favour.

THOUGH both these Examples of a close Alliance between Depravity and Superstition were previous to that enlightened Æra which followed the Re-establishment of Letters, and border upon, if not belong to the darker Ages, yet there are still many Remains of these Absurdities among those of the Romish Persuasion; especially in Italy, Spain, and Portugal, the three most bigoted Countries of any that hold Communion with the See of Rome.

THE Pomp of Ecclesiastics far exceeds that of other Persons of Distinction in most Parts of Italy; especially in the Pope's Territories, where they have some special Privileges annexed to the Display of their Grandeur, which other People, however their Means might afford it, are not admitted to the Participation of; such as the Number of their Gentlemen Retainers, Liverymen, Equipages, Horses, and the like. Precedence is given them every where with the most chearful Readiness, and without the least Degree of Reluctance in any Persons whatever. Thus, if a Layman's Equipage

page should meet that of a dignified Clergyman, the former is to give Way, after making the latter some very submissive Compliment; and if the Clergyman in travelling should arrive at an Inn later than the other, the Layman would not dare continue in Possession of the best Rooms, but immediately give them up to him. All this is done without the least repining; and such is the almost native Awe (for it is inculcated in their very Infancy) they all stand in of Ecclesiastics, that they never think they have done enough to testify their Complaisance towards them; and whatever Liberties these might take, from the Consciousness of their Superiority of Power and Credit, those would not seem to perceive, much less bethink themselves of resenting it.

BUT to do Justice to the Italian Ecclesiastics, they are very far from seeking Occasions of exerting their Authority; on the contrary, their Behaviour is mild and affable in a peculiar Degree, and it would be wronging them essentially, not to acknowledge that they are much more desirous of commanding

commanding Veneration than Fear. Such, in general, is the Character of the higher Ranks of Clergyman in Italy, whose obliging Deportment to Strangers of a decent Appearance, the English particularly, ought not to be forgotten. Though they look upon us as Heretics, they treat us with a Politeness and Humanity which plainly evince religious Animosity is in a Manner obliterated among them, and has given Way to a Spirit of Civilization and Urbanity. Of this our Countrymen (when they deserve it) have abundant Proofs in the Esteem and Consideration they experience from those Gentlemen; who seem to pay them a more than common Attention, by preferably inviting them to their Houses and Conversations, and admitting them to their Familiarity, and almost to their Intimacy. Favours which they are not so ready to confer upon other Foreigners.

THE inferior Clergy follow the laudable Examples of their Superiors, and are equally civil and condescending. Never meddling with Matters from which they are sensible nothing but Odium will accrue, and interfering only where they know
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their Mediation will be welcome and effectual.

By such Arts as these the Clergy in Italy are become so predominantly respected. Nor can any Thing be more erroneous than the Notions that prevail among the uninformed, of their being a haughty, supercilious Generation, ever busied in Oppression, and glorying, as it were, in the Manifestation of the unbounded Power they enjoy over the Minds, Persons, and Fortunes of the Laity.

THE regular Clergy, consisting of the various cenobitical Orders, whether Mendicants, or possessed of Lands and Estates, is so called in Contradistinction to the Secular, who live abroad in the World, and are each his own Master; while the former are bound by many Restrictions, and dwell together collegiately under the Direction of a Superior, whose Temper and Way of Thinking decide in a great Measure of their Happiness or Misery. The Lives they lead are commonly very edifying: Though much Learning is not found among them, they, now and then, produce Men
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of Abilities, and many of them excel in those Branches of manual Ingenuity that are the Fruits of great Leisure and great Pains. Abundance of curious Pieces of Workmanship proceed from their Hands; and Carving, Sculpture, and Painting flourish, in no secondary Degree, in several of these monastic Retreats; chiefly among those whom they call Lay-Brothers, a Kind of Menials in the Convents. These being usually Persons of low Birth, and of no liberal Education, are allowed by their Statutes to practise the Trades and handicraft Occupations they were bred to, for the Service of the Community. Whence such of them as have a Turn for any of the aforesaid Arts, are indulged in the Cultivation of them, and often become very great Proficients.

ITALY abounds beyond all other Romish Countries, with Shrines, Relicks, Statues and Pictures of no small Fame in the Operation of wonderful Events. Their miraculous Madonas especially are known every where. We Protestants are very apt to tax the Priests and Friars with Artifice
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and Juggling, in order to deceive the ignorant and credulous; and probably the Accusation is partly true. But it is no less certain, that the Majority of the Priests and Friars themselves as firmly believe the Stories they deal out to the Commonalty, as the most simple Part of their Audience. Tales of the Apparitions of heavenly or infernal Spirits, of Saints, of Ghosts, and of other supernatural Transactions, attended with particular, and much insisted on Details, of Time and Place, with every Circumstance to give Weight to the Relation, are as much in Vogue among the Clergy, as among the Laity.

THE Behaviour of the Italians in their Churches is truly theatrical, and the numberless Gestures that accompany their Devotions strongly denote the internal Agitation of Men fully persuaded of the Rectitude and Necessity of what they are about. The Variety and Efforts of Gesticulation in many of their Preachers are amazing, and far exceed even the dramatical Vehemence of a French Actor. An Italian, when holding forth, often knows not where to stop; and though he contains himself within his

Pulpit,

Pulpit, which, however, is made large enough to admit of great Motion and Activity, yet his Body appears in a Sort of Confinement, from which one would imagine, he is endeavouring every Moment to break. His Soul seems possessed with Hope or Fear, Grief or Joy, Horror and Shame, or Serenity and Content, just as he thinks the Subject of his Discourse requires that he should throw himself into the various Aspects and Attitudes corresponding with those different Passions. This, in Italy, is called Eloquence; and far from exciting Laughter and Contempt, or appearing in the least unnatural and affected, such a Method of Preaching is so well adapted to the Disposition of the Auditors, that Tears are drawn, or Countenances cheered, and Proofs of Sympathy with the Feelings of the Speaker are abundantly given by the almost unanimous Concomitance of the whole Assembly.

IF sacred Oratory be on such a Footing in Italy, well may they in prophane Matters carry their Violence of Action still farther. This they do, in some Places, to an Excess almost incredible to those who have

have not been Eye-Witnesses of it. The only apposite Method of conveying an Idea of some of the Italian Modes of pleading at the Bar, is to imagine Harlequin, Punch, and Pantaloon at high Words together. There is not a Gesture, a Contorsion, or a Grimace of Body, Limbs, or Visage, unexhibited on these Occasions; and as they are not circumscribed by a Pulpit, there is no Limitation to their Agility and Excursions, but that of the Hall they plead in.

THE Article of travelling is a very discouraging one, in many Parts of Italy; their Inns being, with very few Exceptions, the Seats of Inconvenience, Poverty, and Wretchedness in their most disagreeable Extremes; and what is remarkable, they principally deserve this Stigma in those Districts where a Traveller's Curiosity is principally interested, the Countries in the Vicinity of Rome and Naples; where the most valuable Monuments of Antiquity are found in the greatest Number.

To speak Truth, Cleanliness is not a very common Qualification among the Ita-

lians : Neither private nor public Houses have any Cause to boast on that Account. Nay, there are Samples of Dirtiness too nauseous to mention, and these suffered in the Palaces, and in the very Presence of their first Personages.

THE Furniture of their noblest Rooms is often shabby, old-fashioned, or ragged ; and were it not for Pictures and Statues, the interior Parts of some, if not most, of their grandest Dwellings would not deserve Inspection. It is chiefly the Architecture alone that recommends all their Buildings, and even there it is only the Out-side we can admire. They understand nothing of the commodious Distribution of the Apartments ; an Object much better consulted in France, and still more attended to in England.

It cannot, in short, be dissembled that the Part of the grand Tour which is performed in Italy is very irksome to all who are not deeply enamoured with Music, and the three Sister Arts of Architecture, Sculpture, and Painting. They who

who seek other Sources of Pleasure here will find themselves greatly disappointed. Their public Diversions are not of the Kind that please an English or a French Palate, which require something more than what gratifies the meer Sight or Hearing. This is too empty, and too futile an Enjoyment for those who have been used to the elegant Recreations of the Stage in England, and in France; the only Countries where they are conducted with Judgment and Propriety, and form a rational and a gentlemanly Relaxation.

IN Italy, the Stage is yet in a State of Imperfection that ought to cover with Shame a People who possess the Means of improving it so long before the Rest of Europe; and who therefore, ought, ere now, to have brought it to the highest Degree of Perfection. But this is so very far from being the Case, that even the usual received Notions of common Sense and Decency are banished from the Generality of their theatrical Pastimes; while the lowest Buffoonry, such as the

meanest Rabble only can digest elsewhere, is what they give the Name of Comedy to.

THEIR Operas, indeed, make some Amends. But when we reflect how few they have whose Merit is not confined to the Music, and that the poetical Part, in most of them, is the Height of Bombast, and intolerable to a Reader of any Taste, can a judicious English or French Spectator forbear entertaining a secret Contempt for so manifest a Depravity of Taste? and inwardly congratulating himself on the superior Excellence of his Countrymen in one of the most useful of all Inventions in genteel Life, that of reconciling Pleasure with Instruction, and of turning to a laudable Account the many Hours which the Italians murder in the Encouragement and Countenance given to their wretched Farces by many even of those who would esteem themselves injured to be classed with the Commonality.

BUT the Loss of Time is not the worst Consequence of these despicable Amuse-

Amusements; they have a much more pernicious Influence on the Disposition and Manners of the People than seems to be suspected, by nourishing a Frivolousness of Mind visible in the Discourses even of the better Sort; which seldom afford those vigorous Sallies of a well-cultivated Imagination, supported by an equal Strength of Reasoning and Expression, that animate the Conversations of Persons of the same Rank in some other Countries; but are replenished with a Variety of what they call Concetti; a Kind of Wit very current in Italy, and thought a Refinement of which none but a quick and fertile Fancy is capable: The French however, very uncomplaisantly (as the Italians say) call them *Pensées fausses*, wrong-headed Thoughts; and we blunt Englishmen are pleased, without Ceremony, to stile them downright Nonsense. Of this Species of Wit a Definition is not necessary to those who have perused the Medleys of Harmony and Absurdity imported hither from Italy, and acted with such Applause: Concettis form the very Soul and Spirit of these Compositions; the only Purport

of which is to link together a Set of soft, sweet sounding Phrases, whose Drift and Meaning are almost unintelligible; but which have the never-failing Power of charming the Ears of the Many; who, in favour of that agreeable Modulation which generally accompanies a Performance void of Sense and Energy, seem very willing to dispense with these Ingredients, and with whatever else might conduce to give it a solid, intrinsic Merit.

THERE exists in Italy a Species of Beings unknown throughout the Rest of Europe; who, though their Rise be not remotely distant, have wrought a Change in the Temper and Manners of the Italians, that renders them, in some Respects, a People totally different from what they were a Century ago. These Beings are well known by the Name of Cicisbeys, and may be considered in the Light of Assistants and Substitutes to those Men of Fashion who have entered into the matrimonial State, and whose fair Partners require more Attendance than

than they are willing, or than their Occupations and Affairs will allow them to give. This Institution appears an admirable Relief to those young Gentlemen who are afraid, from fundry Motives, to venture on a Wife; and yet are unwilling to renounce the soft Amusements resulting from the Society of a female Companion.

HENCE, at first Sight, this Employment of a Cicisbey may seem delightful to Persons of a dissolute and libertine Disposition; but many a one that sought it with all the Eagerness of Inexperience, has heartily rued the Day of his Admission to a Servitude, which robs him of every Moment of his Liberty, and gives the Lady, under whose Banners he has lifted himself, an absolute Command of his Person, his Time, his Means, his Credit, and whatever he can call his own. An Italian Woman knows no Reserves; and he that pretends to her good Graces must divest himself of his Will and Passions, and make an entire Sacrifice of them to her Caprice. Thus a Cicisbey is a perfect

fect Slave ; and tho' no Favours are denied him, yet the Price he pays is far beyond the Value he receives, when we reflect that he barter for it the Peace of his Mind, and the Prosperity of his Circumstances ; as it happens not unfrequently that Advancements in Life are retarded, and sometimes totally frustrated, through the Impediments thrown in the Way of Activity, by the Assiduouſness a Lady inſiſts upon from him, who, by the fatal Office he has accepted, has bound himſelf to a perpetual Attendance upon her.

BUT if ſuch a Connection, viewed only in a Light of Pleaſure and Gallantry, is ſo undeſirable, ſo very far from anſwering the Expectations even of the Man of mere Pleaſure ; it ſtill diſplays a more ſhocking Picture, when we examine it according to the Rules of Morality ; as it radically deſtroys the very firſt Principles whereon the reciprocal Happineſs of the Sexes is founded ; by introducing into the wedded State, not a bare Indifference, but a mutual Contempt and Averſion the more violent for being ſuppreſſed ; tho' ſufficiently

ently manifested by the universal Estrangement of the Parties concerned from each other's Pursuits and Occupations, and the Neglect of a Progeny, for which only one of the Parents can be supposed to entertain any Feeling.

SUCH is the Delineation, and such the Effects of Cicisbeism, the most detestable of all those Enormities that Fashion authorises in Europe. A Custom the more deserving of Surprise, as the Country where it prevails was formerly remarkable for Inclinations and Manners that bespoke, as it were, an everlasting Impossibility of its Reception among the Natives; whose jealous Disposition was, at that Time, one of their most distinguishing Characteristics. But, as if it had been pre-ordained as a Proof that any Excess hardly ever fails to beget another of a contrary Tendency, they are now fallen into the other Extreme, and the most outrageous Jealousy has at last subsided into the most supine Carelessness and Unconcern about the Behaviour and Conduct of their Wives.

THE Italian Women are far preferable to the French in Point of exterior Charms, but their Education is, in general, most scandalously neglected; and those Accomplishments that render the Ladies in England and in France so acceptable in Company, are but rarely found among the Italians, who depend chiefly on their native Subtlety and Fineſſe, to ingratiate themselves with ſuch as they deem worthy their Notice; of which they ſeldom beſtow any conſiderable Portion on any but their own Countrymen, ſeeming rather inclined to undervalue Foreigners, whoſe Down-rightneſs and frank ingenuous Temper is not much the Subject of their Admiration; as it but ill correſponds with that Craft and Cunning which accompanies all their own Actions and Diſcourſes, and throws an Air of Myſteriouſneſs on the whole Tenour of their Conduct. Little, however, is loſt by the Refuſal of their Smiles, as the moſt a Stranger can propoſe to obtain is a tranſitory Courſe of Favours, the Remembrance of which cannot fail to hurt his Pride from the Conſideration of their Inter-eſtedneſs.

LOVE,

LOVE, in Italy, meets with very small Encouragement from the great. That innocent, pure, and sentimental Passion, which the Sanction of strictest Virtue authorises, is almost obliterated among them. The sordid Motives, which to the Disgrace of most Nations, have so much undue Influence over them in their matrimonial Connections, are still much more infamously prevalent among the Nobility and Gentry of Italy.

AN Italian Female of Birth and Fortune, bred in the Prison of a Cloyster, is brought forth, when marriageable, to receive her Sentence, and conducted like a Victim to the Altar, there to be made a Sacrifice to a Man of whom she hardly knows the Face. None of those antecedent Homages of a Lover, none of those engaging Proofs of Attachment, which only can secure a Reciprocation. In short, no Medium of Courtship intervenes, and therefore no Opportunity is given to create an Affection on either Side. Hence their nuptial Alliances

ances are the Foundation of that Infamy and Scandal above described.

THIS is no untrue Representation of the usual Proceedings in these Matters among the fashionable People in Italy ; which from this Cause, has little to pride itself in the Character of its Women of Quality ; the major Part of whom, whatever native Excellencies they may be endowed with, are by this cruel Treatment of their Persons, in the most material Business of their Lives, debarred in a Manner of all Incitements to display them ; and as if in Revenge for this barbarous Exertion of parental Authority, this contemptuous unworthy Usage of their Sex, seem determined to verify by their Behaviour the mean Opinion so unjustly, and so fatally entertained of it by the other.

THERE is not any Nation, the Chinese perhaps excepted, more amazingly infatuated with the Love of high and mighty Appellations, than the Italians ; who may with great Truth, be said to have given Rise to those many titular Qualifications by
which

which the various Ranks and Stations in modern Society are distinguished.

As the Court of Rome was for Ages the Center of Negotiations on Subjects of the most universal Importance to all Europe, and was esteemed, at the same Time, the supreme Seat of Authority in many temporal, as well as all spiritual Matters in this Part of the World, it consequently was copied, as a prime Model, by all the other Courts of Christendom. Thus the many ceremonious Forms and Phrases, with which it loaded the Transaction of Business, became of Course a universal Precedent; and the nominal Honours its Policy so liberally annexed to the mention of all those from whom an ample Retribution was expected, were adopted and imitated by other States. Hence originally emanated that Profusion of Epithets importive of personal Dignity, which Custom has now made so current throughout all Europe.

It was no Wonder that illiterate Nations should have been fond of deriving
their

their Notions and Institutions from the Italians, who were in those Days fully qualified to be their Preceptors, and whom their most studious Individuals were wont to visit from that Motive, much in the same Manner as many of the Sages of Antiquity travelled into Ægypt for Improvement.

BUT now that real Learning and Politeness are so generally diffused, it is surprising that an enlightened World should not have yet cast off these Remains of Ignorance and ill Taste, and restored that unaffected Propriety in the Modes of Speech and Inter-course, for which the Ancients are with so much Reason admired.

THIS leads one naturally to remark that there is not perhaps a more striking Difference between the ancient and modern Inhabitants of Italy, than the Vanity and Fulsomeness of these in their Titles and honorary Denominations, and the Plainness and Simplicity of the former; who in the most glittering Periods of their State, were content with the bare Mention of their
Names,

Names, and of the Offices they bore, and seem to have been utter Strangers to any insignificant Additions, as well as to that preposterous Multiplicity of complimentary Expressions, which now, through the Right of Prescription, claim so inelegant an Admittance both into Correspondence and Discourse.

IN Italy, not only the respectable Parts of Society are possessed of certain verbal Appendages, which it would be rude and affrontive to retrench from their Names, whenever they are committed to Paper; but even those Trades and Occupations, which, though honest and necessary, are still of the low and menial Kind, have also a List of Adjectives to precede, and as it were, to usher in with Decency their Persons and Professions.

THIS ostentatious Disposition in the Italians induces no few of them to avail themselves of the most trivial Insignia of Vanity; such for Example as being called after the most famous of the Roman Heroes: We sometimes hear of a Family, not
one

one Male of which is less than a Scipio, a Mark Anthony, a Pompey, or a Cæsar.

A LIKE Spirit of Self-Flattery prompts others to indulge themselves in the most groundless Conceit of a Descent from some of the most illustrious Houses in old Rome; and happy is he who by the Similitude of his Family Name, can vamp up the least Claim of this Nature.

THE modern Romans are alert on these Occasions; nay so infatuated are they with a Persuasion that more of that heroic Blood runs in their Veins than the World is aware of, that not many Years ago in a seditious Gathering of the Populace, their Ring-leaders animated them with this very Notion; and loudly asserted that nothing but Opportunities were wanting to prove they were by no means degenerated.

SUCH Pretensions, ridiculous as they may appear, are not viewed in that Light even by many of the better Sort, who seem very unwilling to be convinced that the Resolution of the ancient Romans is quite extinct
4 in

in their pretended Posterity; and, as an Argument of its still subsisting, often quote, with a triumphant Pleasure, the bold Steps taken during the War for the Succession to the Crown of Spain; when the Members of the Court of Rome, relying on the Alacrity that appeared in all their Subjects to second the Measures they were projecting, dared become the principal Opposers of the Jurisdiction claimed by the German Emperors in Italy; and though abandoned by their Neighbours, nevertheless persisted, however unsuccessfully, in their Efforts to prevent the Court of Vienna, in the Person of its chief, the Emperor Joseph (an ambitious and enterprising Prince) from domineering in the arbitrary Manner that is remembered by the Italians with so much Bitterness to this Hour.

HENCE, Numbers of the present Roman Nobility are Persons of no small Pride; still confiding in the Possibility of reviving the dormant Spirit (as they are pleased to stile it) of former Ages; and that the Day will come, when their Freedom and Dignity may be recalled on the

Scene. They went farther in the Beginning of the Sixteenth Century than bare Surmises : Pope Julius, an intrepid and warlike Prince, had much ado to restrain them. And in the Reigns of some of the preceding Pontiffs, the People of Rome were so ungovernable, that the papal Court, for above half a Century, chose to reside at a Distance, not daring to trust itself in that then tumultuous City.

THEY are, however, much altered since that Æra ; and are now very submissively obedient to the Government. This too is the Case with the People throughout all the States and Principalities of Italy ; the Sovereigns of which, though not over much revered by their Subjects, are seldom or never necessitated to enforce their Authority by violent Means.

NOTHING shews more convincingly the Indifference of the Generality of Italians, with Respect to their Masters, than their Behaviour under the frequent Changes and Revolutions that have transmitted the Sovereignty of several Parts of their Country
through

through so many rival Houses successively : It is remarkable that, while the Contest lasted, they have stood aloof, and given themselves but little Concern about the different Pretenders ; holding it doubtless immaterial by whom they were ruled, and fully determined to avoid, as much as they could, involving themselves in Blood and Desolation, from the sole Motive of Family Zeal. Few Italians draw their Swords in such Quarrels at this Day : The Disputes that have lately happened in their Country, for the Right of Dominion, have been chiefly maintained by foreign Powers, whom Consanguinity or political Connections interested in the Support of the various Claimants ; the Individuals of the Countries contended for interfering no further than private Views of Gain or Ambition might actuate them to espouse the Cause of either Party.

THIS Unconcern, or rather absolute Disregard for the Persons of their Princes and Rulers, is very much diffused throughout all Italy, but no where more apparent than at Rome ; where Administration, from

the usually short Duration of its Head-Constituents, is so often devolving through a Variety of Hands : This of Course produces an Idea of Transitoriness that proves an effectual Bar to the settled, permanent Respect which only a Stability of Men and Measures can impress on the Subject.

THE Italians do full Credit to the Observation of Charles the Fifth, a keen Inspector of Mankind ; who from his frequent Residence among them, and the Multiplicity of his Affairs in that Country, had numberless Opportunities of becoming well acquainted with their Disposition, and of comparing it with that of the French and Spaniards, Nations with whom he was equally conversant.

THIS celebrated Prince, (many of whose Sayings have been universally received as the compleatest Verdicts on the Subjects which gave Occasion to them) often declared it his Opinion that the Italians were not only sagacious and deliberate in Appearance, but that they were so in Reality ; while the French concealed their Wisdom with a Cloak of Folly, and the Spaniards
under

under the Mask of Wisdom, were guilty of the grossest Blunders.

THERE was certainly great Truth in this Observation; as notwithstanding an Outside of Levity, no People are more intelligent and dexterous than the French, in what regards their Interest; and though a profound Gravity of Deportment characterises a Spaniard, yet Experience has demonstrated that in them it proceeds less from Thoughtfulness and Foresight, than from Pride and Self-Respect; Qualities that have a natural Tendency to lead a Man into many Errors.

THE Italians preserve a just Medium between these two: They have neither the Pertness and Flippancy of the former, nor the extreme Solemnity and Seriousness of the latter; but excepting their Extravagance in the Pulpit, and at the Bar, and their Buffoonery on the Stage, are Men of a sober, moderate Behaviour in the ordinary Occurrences of Life.

IT must, however, be acknowledged, that this Prudence and Wariness of the

Italians, whether in their public or their private Affairs, is rather of the passive and cautious, than of the enterprising and active Kind. While it secures them from the Mistakes caused by Precipitation, or by Dilatoriness, the two capital Failings of their French and Spanish Neighbours, it produces a Sort of Hesitation at the Propriety of their Measures, or rather a Diffidence in their own Strength, that either discourages them from attempting to carry into Execution their Schemes, however well concerted, or clogs their Undertakings after they have been entered upon.

To this Unsteadiness (of which they are chiefly guilty in national Matters) it is owing that for so many Ages, notwithstanding the Advantages Nature has put into their Hands, the Italians have suffered their Country to be perpetually enslaved by Foreigners. There is no Part of Europe better fortified by Situation against the Entrance of an Enemy, and yet none is more frequently invaded. Had the Natives a Stock of Resolution equal to their political Abilities, they would long since have delivered themselves from the troublesome Guests of whom
they

they so often and so severely complain. They once, indeed, thought themselves in a fair Way to *Cacciare i Barbari di Italia*, to drive the Barbarians, that is to say, the Spaniards, French, and Germans out of Italy; a Phrase as often in the Mouth of the last mentioned celebrated Pope as the *Delenda est Carthago*, the Necessity of destroying Carthage, was in that of Cato: But the fatal Connexions of that Pontiff with those foreign Powers whom he thought to play off against each other, and render subservient to that favourite Design, drew him beyond his Mark: Want of Unanimity among those from whom he had promised himself a Concurrence necessary to effect his Plan prevented him from proceeding in it; and as unreasonable Jealousies were entertained of him, they of Course influenced his own Conduct: All these unfavourable Incidents united to form an insuperable Bar to the Efforts of Italian Policy, and to keep them in Subjection to those Barbarians whom they so much hated, and still more despised.

CAUSES of the same Nature have operated, undoubtedly, to this Day. Otherwise the Natives, fatigued with those end-

less Vicissitudes of Government that have so long afflicted their Country, must have, ere now, become their own Masters.

BUT beside these apparent Sources of Mischief, there is a still deeper rooted Evil, less manifestly perhaps, but equally, if not more detrimental to the Public, by obstructing that mutual Cordiality among Individuals, which is the most solid Basis of all political Associations.

THERE subsists among the various Bodies of People that compose the Italian States a reciprocal Dislike, often indeed an utter Detestation, which, in a Manner, annihilates the very Seeds of Patriotism, by fomenting those Animosities that totally banish the Reflection of their being Fellow Inhabitants of the same Country: Hence the Idea of a national Body is not known in Italy; the many Divisions of which are apt to consider themselves as so many distinct and separate Nations; and accordingly treat each other with an Unfriendliness, not so say an Aversion, that leaves but little Hope of any future Sincerity of Union.

THIS

THIS Antipathy, which the respective Heads and Rulers are guilty of abetting without any Restraint, communicates itself to the Members in a still more open and violent Degree of Outrageousness; and the cruel Taunts with which they mutually asperse one another, beget an Inveteracy between the lower Sort that often breaks out on the most trivial Occasions, and gives Rise to very serious Quarrels among them.

THIS Enmity rests on a most tenacious and durable Foundation, the Jealousy that rages between their Superiors, arising from the well-grounded Suspicions they entertain of each other's fairest Pretensions to Benevolence; a Mistrust which flows from a Consciousness of the reciprocal Malice and Contempt that is harboured with such unrelenting Rancour, not more by themselves, than by the inferior Classes on all Sides: Thus the Romans, Neapolitans, Florentines, and Genoese hold one another in the most invincible Abhorrence: Their Language has scarcely Terms of sufficient Strength

Strength and Energy to express the full Measure of their Malevolence, and while the Commonality are with-held by no Restrictions, the Dictates of good Breeding cannot always restrain even the better Sort from letting themselves loose in the most indecent Manner that Words are able to devise.

THERE are no People more inclinable than the Italians to receive Umbrage from those Liberties which a Person cannot sometimes avoid taking with the Politics of a Country he visits or resides in. These are in Italy a *noli me tangere*, and tho' Foreigners may be connived at, yet the Subjects of no State are bold enough to expatiate freely on its Concerns.

HENCE the Topics of Conversation are pretty much confined. The Knowledge of those Men of Parts, whose Lucubrations might enlighten and benefit their Country, seldom sees the Day; and is cautiously confined within their Closets, or communicated only to some sure and select Friends, who in their Turn are not over-desirous

desirous of seeming better informed than their Superiors.

LITTLE therefore is gained by the Frequentation of their Literati; whose Learning is, in general, of no great Profit either to themselves or to others; if solid and profound, they fear to display it; if trifling and superficial, as it commonly proves, an Ostentation of it can only be tedious and disgusting.

THE only valuable Branches of Science that now flourish in Italy, are Medicine, and its collateral Studies, and some Portions of Mathematics. But Objects of this Nature, tho' of great Importance, have not that diffusive Popularity which awakens the Attention of all Men; they necessarily are limited to a particular Class, and being remote from the common Pursuits of the World, excite but little of its Curiosity.

THESE excepted, the Cultivation of liberal, manly Knowledge is at a very low Ebb in Italy; where we meet with nothing

thing at present of that Universality of excellent Disquisitions on all Kind of Subjects, which employ so many celebrated Pens in England and in France, and have rendered those two Nations incomparably the most illustrious in the Field of Literature at this Day.

THE Truth is that Education is not on the illustrious Footing it was formerly among the Italians; who seem now but little interested in the Glory which accrues to a Nation, from the Eminence of its Individuals in the various Provinces of intellectual Improvement: For many Years they have had but few Writers even of tolerable Merit among them. Pope Clement the eleventh, a Man of Sense and Letters, used often to lament this Deficiency; and express his Apprehensions that a Time would come, when, through Want of that Respect which only well cultivated Abilities could command, the Power of his Successors would be impaired, and the Veneration heretofore paid to the papal See be diminished in a fatal Degree. Some late Events seem to

have

have made the Fears of that Pontiff prophetic; and tho' Men are not prone to look into the remote Causes of Events, but are most attentive to those which immediately precede them, yet it cannot escape the Perception of the Judicious, that the great Superiority in all Kind of Knowledge and Learning, which other Nations have acquired over the Italians, has weakened that Reverence for the Court of Rome, on which it depends chiefly for Support; and must consequently overthrow, at last, its Influence over the Minds of People, as such an Influence can only arise from a Persuasion of the greater Wisdom of those who possess it.

THE Italians, are far from being rude and wanting in the Essentials of good Manners, but are by no Means remarkable for that Politeness and Ease of Behaviour which inhances the Value of Breeding so much beyond its real Worth, and often renders a Person of no true Merit so much more acceptable than one who tho' adorned with the most solid and substantial Qualifications, is yet deficient in this Article.

A studied

A studied Rotation of Quaintness and Insipidity infects their Conversation ; and a stiff and ceremonious Deportment accompanies all their Actions : The most trivial Incidents of casual Meetings, of transient Visits, have their Forms and Regulations ; and as little of what relates to the Propriety of Conduct is left to the good Sense and Judgment of the Parties concerned, the Consequence is that a free and chearful Facility of Intercourse is excluded from the general Tenour of Society ; of which, indeed, the true Spirit little flourishes in most Parts of Italy.

THERE are two Species of Characters, the one what the French call *un bon Vivant*, a hearty Trencher-man, the other a Lover of Frankness and Candour, the first of whom would do well never to visit these Parts ; and the second must not expect much Satisfaction in doing it : The latter will meet with perpetual Disappointments in the Wariness and Reserve he will have to encounter ; and the former will find still greater Difficulties to surmount

mount in the extreme Abstemiousness from Revelling which he will be at no Loss to discover.

AN Italian surveys you, as it were, at a Distance; and like a Party of Men in War, who dread falling into an Ambuscade, he makes his Approaches by Degrees, but seldom so near as to afford you any Handle to make his House your Home: This truly is his Castle, impregnable and impenetrable to either Friend or Foe: Here he enjoys himself in his own Way; and tho' Sobriety and Temperance are Qualities very worthy of Commendation, yet it must be granted that the Italians carry them at their domestic Tables to an Excess that authorises People to give them quite another Name.

IMPARTIALITY, however, obliges one to except from this Imputation of faring penuriously, the Inhabitants of the Northern Parts of Italy; and to acknowledge that they are very far from being addicted to a sordid Course of Living in any Respect: A Portion of Jovialness and Festivity

tivity is seen among them much superior to any Thing of the Kind in the Southern Latitudes; the People of which they esteem the only true Italians, while they deem themselves rather partaking of the other neighbouring Nations, and speak of Italy as a Country not strictly their own.

To give them what is avowedly their due, they are in most Things remarkable for a judicious Admixture of the Manners of Italy and of France; which makes them confessedly the most agreeable of all the Italians, and is the Reason why Foreigners are more pleased with, and oftner make a longer Stay among them than any where else in Italy.

WHATEVER some Italians may pretend concerning the Prowess of their Countrymen, excepting those of the North of Italy, (who may be considered as another Nation) the Testimony of all Europe is strongly against them: That they possess a sufficient Share of native Bravery to make a Figure in the Field may be admitted; but it is as evident that they display

display very little Eagerness to signalize themselves in War, and that in general an Aversion to the Profession of Arms is become one of their chief Characteristics. Few of the Nobility, Gentry, or Commonality who have the least Views of advancing themselves by any other Means, however precarious and slender, care to enter on the military List. The Armies therefore that so frequently fill Italy, are formed and recruited out of other Nations; and what is very deserving of Notice, so well are the foreign Officers apprised of the unwarlike Turn of the Natives, especially those of the ecclesiastical State, that they are never solicitous to enlist them, often suffering their Regiments to remain incomplete, rather than supply their Deficiency in that Manner. What makes this the more remarkable is the Strictness of the primitive Romans, in receiving none but their own Citizens into the Legions: Little did they imagine that in Ages to come, the Race of Men born and bred in the City and Country they inhabited, would, for that very Reason, be judged unfit to bear Arms.

THE Employments an Italian Gentleman delights in are of the pacific Kind, and such as will not expose him to Danger or to Fatigue. Thus many who are not inclined to become Ecclesiastics, and yet have no Fortune to depend on, instead of exerting their Industry for the Acquisition of one, prefer the Bread of Idleness and Indolence in the Service of some Grandee. Hence it is, that in Italy, they who are decorated with the Title of Princes count so many poor Gentlemen in their Retinue, who find Means to make Shift with much less than the smallest Ingenuity would procure them in a more creditable Way, if they had Sense enough to think the Exercise of their Capacity not dishonouring, and Spirit sufficient to undertake such a Task.

ROME has many of these Princes, mostly Descendants of the Relations of the several Popes, who on their Exaltation to the pontifical Throne create them such, and enable them and their Posterity, by large Donations, to live up to the Title. But though they do themselves little Honour by the Splendor of their House-keeping, which

which is formed on the circumscribed Plan above-mentioned, yet no People are more tenacious of the Privileges relating to external Pomp; the Measure of which is dealt out by stated Rules, and insisted upon with so much Nicety, Precision, and Jealousy, that as none of them will abate of the least Appurtenance of Parade, which Custom has made his Due, they are as attentive in suffering no Addition of it to be allowed to any Individual of their own Level, without immediately throwing in their Claim to the like Proportion; and above all Things are watchful that none below them shall arrogate those Honours and Marks of Distinction, which have been appropriated to Persons of their Rank only.

THE Italians preserve, in the midst of the most ridiculous Amusements, an Air of Steadiness and Gravity, which adds to the Risibility of their Character in those Respects, when we reflect how preposterous and inconsistent it is with the Purpose they have in View, which one would think is that of Relaxation and Merriment. Of the former, indeed, no People seem fonder,

but the latter is what, in the Opinion of attentive Travellers, they are far from having a right Notion of. The Reason of this may be the perpetual Guard they keep on their Thoughts, and the immense Caution lest any unweighed Expression should fall from their Lips, on which they wear, one may say, such a Padlock of Circumspection, that no Individuals have less to answer for indiscreet Words than the Italians, who are indisputably the strictest Observers of the first Part of the Counsel one of their Countrymen formerly gave to an English Traveller, which was to keep *I pensieri stretti ed il Viso sciolto*, a close Mind and an open Countenance. It is no Wonder they should be Strangers to the last, when we consider the first is a continual Obstruction to it, as nothing is more difficult for Persons of dark, uncommunicative Tempers, than to appear frank and unreserved.

HENCE, they supremely delight in those Kinds of Diversion where a Person assumes a feigned Character. Such are for Instance, those poetical Dialogues, in the
quick

quick, extemporaneous Composition of which they are amazingly expert and ingenious, and display a Fund of Wit and Vivacity that prove how capable Nature has made them of greater Things: The Assistance of vocal Music is not less frequently called upon: But above all, Masquerades are the darling Amusements both of the high and low; who find therein an ample Field to expatiate, without incurring the least Danger from the Inadvertencies of Speech, of which little or no Use is made on such Occasions that can properly be called one's own.

FROM this Excess of Vigilance and Discretion, when they engage in Discourse, it is with such a Preparation of Care and Foresight, that no Subject is started which might warp them from their Intention of saying nothing they might recollect with any Anxiety for the Consequence. Their Cautiousness even extends to the Prevention of an unguarded Behaviour in others: Thus when a Foreigner is invited to their Conversations, Matters of Moment are industriously avoided in his Presence; lest,

by the Curiosity or Boldness peculiar to some Nations, but very unwelcome in Italy, he should be prompted to propose any Questions it would be disagreeable to resolve, or to hazard Assertions, which, though attended with no Reply, might leave a Sting in the Memories of the Audience.

To these among other Causes is to be imputed the Distance the Italians are so studious in contriving between themselves and the *Ultramontani*, as they stile their European Neighbours, in whatever has a Tendency to produce a Connexion beyond the Limits of a civil, indiscriminate Acquaintance ; lest a too frequent Intercourse should breed a Sort of Intimacy they are very unwilling to cultivate with Foreigners ; not so much from Pride and Superciliousness, as from an Apprehension that these might intrude on the Secrecy and Closeness of their Disposition. For these Reasons the Topics of their Conversation with Strangers are commonly very uninteresting, as they make it a Point to touch, if possible, on nothing that might
lead

lead to much Thought and Discussion, and had rather act the Part of a meer *Cicerone*, and entertain their Company with dry insipid Remarks on the architectural Beauties of an Edifice, the Excellence of a Statue or Picture, the Merit of an Antique, and such like ; on which, it must be confessed, they are much better qualified, as well as inclined to enlarge than upon any other Subjects.

ONE may conclude these Strictures on the Italians, with observing that the two predominant Passions of their Ancestors, Patriotism and a Thirst of Glory, are now become antiquated and obsolete among their Descendants. Slavery and Oppression have destroyed the first, Idleness and Pusillanimity the last. There is no Country in Europe of which the Inhabitants feel so little of that enthusiastic Warmth for its Prosperity, that zealous Attachment to its Interests, and those ardent Wishes for its Renown, which are the constant, inexhaustible Sources from whence so much Heroism has flown. That laudable Desire of acquiring Fame by illustrious Actions,

which animates their more daring Neighbours, excites but little Emulation among them, especially the Romans, esteemed, as already said, the least Martial of all the Italians ; and who are, indeed, so utterly unworthy of the Name they bear, and so scandalously fallen from those Sentiments that once rendered it respectable and dreaded, that a military Man is now become the most unacceptable Guest in all their Meetings and Associations ; which disgraceful Circumstance is so true, that even the fair Sex, whose Predilection for Gentlemen of the Sword, is, in every other Part of Europe, conspicuous, will here turn from them with Indifference, not to say with Disdain, in order to bestow their Attention and Complaisance on the most insignificant Individual that happens to be clad in a clerical Habit, which, among this degenerate People, is the most honourable, and always the most prepossessing in Favour of the Wearer ; not on Account of the Sanctity of that Profession which it indicates (as considerable Numbers of those who assume it are no Clergyman) but because, whether they belong to the Clergy,

or

or to the Laity, it is among those who chuse to appear in this Dress that are found the Beaux and Women's Men of modern Rome; where the Ladies are much more captivated with the flowery Speeches, and Sycophancy of these artful Enamoratos, than with Merit or Valour; and from an Admiration of those Talents for Intrigue, of which these acute Gentlemen are such complete Masters, are the more susceptible of Partiality in their Behalf, and the readier at all Times to give them the Preference over any other Competitors in Affairs of this Nature, from a Conviction, founded on Experience, of their Dexterity in conducting them with that Safety which is the principal Encouragement to engage in them.

FROM what has been premised, we have a Right to infer that Pride, Indolence, Effeminacy, and Ignorance, are the four Cardinal Vices of Italy.

THE first pervades all the upper Stations of Life, and took its Rise from the Ascendancy the Italians enjoyed in former Ages, when

when their Country was the Seat of Learning, and of every useful or polite Art; and the Court of Rome possessed the spiritual, and almost the temporal Empire of the western World. This they cannot forget; and as a Master unwillingly sees himself excelled by his Scholar, so the Italians, who have been the Preceptors of Europe, are mortified at the Superiority some of its Nations have acquired over them.

THEIR Indolence is the Result of their political Situation, and superstitious Tenets: These promote divers Modes of Living absolutely destructive of those Calls that awaken Industry; which unless stimulated by Want and Necessity, is apt to grow remiss and torpid. Hence most Parts of Italy, instead of laborious Manufacturers and Tradesmen, vying with each other in the Improvement of their Business, and zealous to provide for their Families, are filled with Seminaries and Monasteries, the useless Employments and Celibacy of whose Inhabitants conspire to impoverish and depopulate the Land; which, though not deficient in Numbers, contains nothing like
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the far greater Increase of Mankind it might maintain, if Industry and the Cultivation of their Country were encouraged in Proportion to its Fertility, and the Ingenuity of the Natives.

SUCH are the natural and the necessary Effects of a Doctrine that recommends a single Life as the most acceptable to the Deity; while, on the other Hand, the wretched Policy of their different Governments, almost inattentive to every Measure wherein the Benefit of the Subject is concerned, is wholly engrossed by the Study of preserving absolute, unlimited Authority; and of exercising it to the fullest Extent in the most unfeeling Manner; and aggravated by all that Haughtiness and Insolence which a successful Career of Tyranny inspires.

THEIR Effeminacy is a very obvious Consequence of that ridiculous Opinion of Self-Dignity, which reconciles an Aversion to Labour, with a spiritless Resignation to Poverty and Dependance: So strange a Perversion of the Faculties plunges them
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into a Sort of Oblivion of those Ends for which they were formed; and suffers them to emerge from Inactivity, only to indulge in those Gratifications that sooth and amuse the Mind, without affording Employment sufficient to rouse it from its Lethargy, and put Life and Vigour into its Functions.

EXAMPLES of this Species of Depravity abound in those unbeneficed Churchmen, and Semi-Ecclesiastics, of whom such Multitudes hang like a dead Weight upon Society: A Class of Beings whom Scantiness of Means to subsist obliges to use every despicable Art to preserve themselves from utter Indigence. These, together with the Dregs of such as labour to keep Pace with Persons in genteel Life, form a Body of Men whose chief Occupation is to waste their Lives in a Round of the most ignominious Dissipation; who live, as it were, upon the Fortune of the Day, and dedicate it to that equally scandalous and unprofitable Business of attending on those religious Farces, the Exhibition of which is so universal a Pastime in Italy; and on those many other empty Shews and Means
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of mispending Time, with which this Country is so plentifully provided.

THE last is the never-failing Consequence of the three first. When People are elated with Self-Conceit, are become careless of their Concerns, and mindful only of Trifles, what Entrance remains for Knowledge and Information? Which require a large Opening of Thought, never to be effected but by an Assiduity of Application, arising from the Conviction of our intellectual Wants, a strong Desire of improving, and a Contempt of all those frivolous Pursuits from whence no Utility can be derived.

It is a disagreeable Task to expose the Vices and Failings of Individuals; and a still more unpleasing one to hold out to public View those of whole Nations. But the Severity of both is equally necessary; the first, as an Execution of Criminals, serves to deter others from following the same Course; the second, like the Description of an epidemical Distemper, awakens in Men a Solicitude and Carefulness to avoid the Infection.

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INDUCED by such Motives, one may venture to relate, with Confidence and Resolution, those Passages that disgrace the Body of a People; as without injuring such as are innocent (as many doubtless are in the extensive Exception that always accompanies national Accusations) the Punishment thus inflicted on the Guilty, becomes a Preservative to the Virtues and good Qualities of other Nations; who are taught to reverence and cherish them, by viewing the Deformity of the Reverse, as the young Spartans were made sensible of the Infamy and the Baseness of Ebriety, by the Care which their Elders took to render them attentive to the Behaviour of their Slaves, the Helotes, while they were in that scandalous Condition.

OF THE
SPANIARDS.

THE Country which first made a capital Figure in Europe, and excited the principal Attention of the other Nations, was SPAIN, whose Power, during a Century, was formidable to all its Neighbours, and if well managed might have been still greater.

FROM the Union of the House of Arragon with the House of Castile, and of both with that of Austria, in the Person of Charles the Fifth, not many Years after, arose the most extensive Empire in Europe, since that of the Romans.

As Ambition is the natural Result of immense Possessions, Charles the Fifth, and
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his Son Philip the Second, were the most ambitious Princes of their Time; and as the Individuals of a Nation, however despotically ruled, are still apt to rate their Importance in Proportion to that of their Rulers, the vast Power of these two Monarchs inspired the Spaniards with an Overbearingness and Arrogance, of which the Downfall of their Monarchy's former Splendor has not been able to divest them even at this Day.

THIS excessive Greatness was a perpetual Subject of Envy to other Countries; whose Writers have wantonly indulged themselves in partial, unmerciful Representations, not only of the Views of those Princes, which were iniquitous enough, without needing Exaggeration, but also of the Character of their Subjects, much in the same Manner the French have, in later Times, from similar Motives, been treated much worse in these Respects, than they deserved.

THE Conclusion of the fifteenth, and the greater Part of the Sixteenth Century, constitute

stitute the *Æra* of Spanish Grandeur. Before that Period, they were involved in the common Ignorance of Europe, and had no other Means of illustrating themselves than by an unremitting Firmness in opposing the Moors; in their Wars with whom they displayed a Fund of Magnanimity, Resolution, and Perseverance never exceeded in History. After those were expelled or subdued, their Genius, long fettered by intestine Struggles, shone forth at once with amazing Brightness, and shewed a People who wanted only proper Guides to attain to the Summit of all kind of Glory. Though nothing but Feats of Chivalry, and the wildest Excesses of romantic Valour, had hitherto been uppermost in their Thoughts, and were almost equally their Occupations in Peace or in War, yet, even in these Deviations from Justness and Propriety of Conduct, they discovered a Nobleness of Temper and Inclination, which proved how fit they naturally were for the greatest and most arduous Undertakings; and that with Care and Judgment, this Effervency of their Minds might be rendered of the most happy Utility.

SUCH were the Spaniards of former Days ; born with the most excellent Capacity and Disposition, and only deficient in the Point of Improvement.

THIS Deficiency the great Ximenes undertook to remedy by the same Method Richelieu more successfully adopted in France, a hundred Years after ; and which Wolsey, the former's Cotemporary, was introducing into England, precisely at that Time, the Cultivation and Encouragement of Learning and polite Literature.

THESE three celebrated Cardinals, who were all equally ambitious, had certainly exalted Ideas ; and though not without great Failings, still deserve highly of the Republic of Letters, for a Variety of generous and magnificent Foundations in their Favour.

MANY fortunate Circumstances attended the Designs of Ximenes : Exclusive of his being a prime, unrivaled Minister, firmly rooted in the Confidence and good Opinion
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of his Constituents, and not less possessed of the general Esteem, he flourished at an Epocha that seemed in a Manner, to invite his Endeavours for the Prosperity and Reputation of his Country.

SPAIN had just discovered the new World, whose Riches were now become her annual Tribute. Her Navigation was daily increasing; and the Spaniards, elated with those Prospects of immense Profit that were continually opening to their View, felt a Warmth and Resolution to undertake and atchieve the most daring Adventures. At Home, Tranquillity, by the total Subjection of the Moors, was now lastingly established; and nothing remained but to diffuse its happy Effects throughout the Realm, by the salutary Measures of a wise Government. This Ximenes proposed as the Labour of his latter and better Days. Accordingly when he had, by Means of a brilliant Administration, acquired that Measure of Respect and Deference, which was necessary to the Prosecution of his Designs, he spared no Pains, no Cost, no Vigilance, in framing

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the most prudent Regulations for the domestic Welfare of Society, and introducing good Order into every Department of the State, by those equally judicious and beneficial Arrangements and Institutions that reflect so much Honour on his Memory; among which, those that related to the Care and Education of the young Nobility and Gentry employed his principal Solitude, from a just Persuasion, that through the Neglect or Cultivation of their Youth, they became the chief Support and Ornament of their Country, or the principal Causes of its Disgrace and Ruin.

BUT the provident Genius of this great Minister died with him; and though Spain, in the Course of a few Years, produced a very considerable Number of eminent Men, in all Denominations, (for whom, undoubtedly, she was highly indebted to the Plans he had formed) yet those among them who were at the Head of Affairs, led astray by the impetuous ill-placed Ambition of the Times, were wholly taken up with Transactions Abroad, and paid the least of their Attention to those
essential

essential Objects that demanded it so much at Home. Thus by a fatal Relaxation, and finally an almost entire Oblivion of that internal Polity, over which Ximenes had been so watchful, deeming it, with Reason, the true Fountain of all national Felicity; his Countrymen, though supported by all the Helps that prodigious Wealth and extensive Dominions could afford, were baffled in all their Enterprises, and foiled in all their Designs, by Nations much less opulent, and less powerful than themselves.

As a Listlessness and Indifference prevailed at Court, about the Welfare and good Government of their almost boundless Acquisitions in America, the Adventurers in that vast Hemisphere were left at Liberty to range throughout it, like so many Beasts of Prey; and while their Remittances of endless Treasures were pouring into the Ports of Spain, little, or indeed scarce any, Notice was taken of the infamous Methods that were used to obtain them.

HENCE Avarice and Cruelty became the Characteristics of the Nation, and that an-

cient Generosity of Sentiments and Actions, for which they had once been so renowned, gave Way to a Ferociousness of Soul that impelled them to the Commission of Barbarities, of which no Parallel is to be found in the Annals of Mankind.

THIS Bloodiness of Temper was not only exerted in remote, uncivilized Regions, where none but Savages were Witnesses and Sufferers; but even their European Provinces felt its dire Effects. The bare Mention of such a Monster as the Duke of Alva sufficiently reminds one of the melancholy Truth of this Assertion.

IT raged, indeed, with no less Violence in their own Country; where the inhuman Spirit which first established the Inquisition, spread the Horrors of that Tribunal throughout the Land, with scarce any Distinction of Age or Sex. Women in their Teens fell a Sacrifice to its Fury. No Eminence of Merit was admitted as any Protection. The very Favourites of Kings, nay even Kings themselves, were not exempted from its Jurisdiction. One
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of their Philips having expressed his Commiseration for some of the unhappy Victims he saw leading to Execution, was (in Compliance with the Desire of some of his deluded Subjects, who thought him bound to give a signal Proof of his Repentance, for seeming to disapprove of the inquisitorial Proceedings) prevailed upon, as a Punishment upon himself, to suffer some of his Blood to be drawn, and thrown into the Flames by the public Executioner.

HERE one may reasonably exclaim,

Tantum Religio potuit suadere Malorum.

Such were the execrable Deeds Religion could inspire. Such an abhorrence of our Fellow-Creatures can a Difference of Opinion concerning the Dispensations of Heaven, and the Manner of worshipping the Deity, create among Men; who, however willing to agree in every other Respect, and to terminate amicably the most outrageous Disputes, are still averse to drop their Feuds and Animosities about Matters, which in their Nature can neither be beneficial or detrimental to the Community;

and too readily forget that Zeal is reconcilable with Equity in the Suppression or Encouragement of those Things only that are evidently, and beyond the Power of Disputation, conducive to the visible Good or Evil of Society.

BUT the minuteſt Deviation from the religious Rites and Tenets eſtabliſhed and profeſſed by public Authority, was then, and is yet, ſo capital an Offence in Spain, as to be reputed equal even to High Treason.

THUS, in the celebrated Charter of Immunities granted of old to the Biſcayans, for their Valour againſt the Moors, while Fines, Imprisonment, or the Gallies, are made ſufficient Penalties for other Crimes, however enormous, that of Hereſy, as they ſtile it, is excepted from the Liſt of pardonable Tranſgreſſions, together with Rebellion, the only Caſes wherein a Native of that Province is puniſhable with Death: A Privilege heretofore enjoyed alſo by the Catalonians, till deprived of that, and all others by the Houſe of Bourbon, whoſe Acceſſion

cession they too faithfully united with our Ministry in opposing.

To this Spirit of superstitious Intoleration, is to be ascribed the strange Behaviour of the Spanish Ambassadors, sent to England in order to negotiate a Peace with James the First; who, notwithstanding the distressed Situation of their Country, and the Necessity they were under of a Pacification with England, at any Rate, suffered their Bigotry to proceed so far, as to deem it criminal to participate in any Act of Devotion, with those whom they accounted Heretics; and were with much Difficulty brought to consent, that any Thanksgiving should, while they were present, be offered in the King's Chapel, when the Peace was signed and sworn to on both Sides.

So absurd were, at this Period, their Prepossessions against all those who dissented from their Modes of Faith, that the Inhabitants of Madrid were much surprised to see the English belonging to the Train of the Embassy sent to Spain, after Queen Elizabeth's Death, so handsome and well made;

made; as the Commonalty throughout that Kingdom, were taught, and fully believed, that Ugliness and Deformity were impressed on their Persons, as a Mark of Reprobation for their Nonconformity with the Church of Rome.

NOR were they less amazed during the Wars for the Spanish Succession at the Commencement of this Century, at the generous, humane Behaviour of the English Officers and Soldiers in their Country, from whom, as Heretics, they expected nothing but Savageness and Barbarity.

THESE Prejudices against Protestants have been carried to so stupid an Excess, that even such of their own Communion as have unluckily borne a Name similar to that of any Person celebrated among the Reformed, have sometimes found it an Obstacle to their Advancement.

AN equal Degree of Ignorance and Preposterousness infects the Modes of Worship in Spain, where the most indecent and scandalous Practices are tolerated in a Manner

ner that disfigures Religion, and renders it a Subject of Contempt and Ridicule. In the Height of their spiritual Exultations, while the Host is carried about in triumphant Solemnity, it is common to see it followed by People dressed in Masquerade, who testify their Joy by Leaping, Dancing, and playing on Castaniattos, all the Way, and often continue these Expressions of Merriment in the very Churches.

THIS superstitious Delirium the Spaniards propagated through the several Provinces they so long possessed in the Low-Countries, where, to this Day, their religious Processions are intermixed with such antic Exhibitions, that a Spectator is at a Loss to determine with what Intent they are performed, whether to excite Devotion or Laughter; whether to honour Heaven, or to divert the Populace. In most of, or all the great Towns of Flanders and Brabant there are annual Festivals usually kept in the Summer-Season, for the greater Conveniency of a general Resort from all Parts of the District. On the Day appointed, all the different Companies of Tradesmen

Tradesmen and Artificers assemble, and begin the March, somewhat in the Manner of our Lord-Mayor's Shew. They are followed by the secular and regular Clergy belonging to the Place, who form, as it were, an Escort to the prodigious Number of Shrines brought forth on such Occasions, as all Relics of any Note claim a Share in this Solemnity. After these, a compleat System of Heathen Mythology is represented by Persons accoutered in the various Forms and Dresses attributed to each Deity. Next are displayed a String of Devices of the allegorical Kind, as the Wheel of Fortune, the Virtues and Vices, the Inclinations and Passions of Mankind. The Rear is generally closed by a Set of immense Wicker Giants, to whom ours at Guildhall are no more than Dwarfs.

THESE Extravagancies, of which this Description is by no Means exaggerated, do not appear such to the Crowds they attract from all Quarters. After having testified the utmost Respect for the Images, and the Remains of those divers Saints, whose Patronage and Protection of their
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City and Territory these Farces are partly instituted to commemorate ; they make an easy and quick Transition to that Looseness and Intemperance of vulgar, inelegant Mirth, which the subsequent Scenes of Oddities and Buffoonery cannot fail to occasion.

NOTWITHSTANDING the Magnificence of the Spanish Court, and the Profusion of the Grandees in their Expences, during the Reigns of Charles the Fifth, and Philip the Second, no Artist of capital Eminence arose among the Natives ; their Architects, their Statuaries, their Painters, came from Italy ; and when the first of these Princes built a Palace at Madrid, and the second the Escorial, the very Workmen were supplied from Abroad. The Spaniards, like the ancient Romans, were willing enough to encourage and patronise the fine Arts, but left the Cultivation of them to others, judging it more eligible to apply themselves to War, Politics, and the Improvement of their Fortunes, by lucrative Voyages to their American Settlements, or
beneficial

beneficial Employments in the numerous Departments of their widely diffused Monarchy. One would have thought they had in View the celebrated Lines of Virgil, wherein he recommends, in a Manner, the Neglect of such Arts to his Countrymen, and advises them to pursue those of Empire and Conquest. Their whole Practice, at least, tended to the strictest Observance of the Poet's Precept.

WHAT rendered this Inaddiction to Works of Ingenuity the more remarkable, was, that Flanders, their favourite Possession, and their Italian Provinces, both abounded in the most illustrious Professors of all those Branches in that Age. What is still more, they themselves so long continued the professed Admirers of all these Arts, that even in the Decline of their Monarchy, (at a Juncture when their Finances could ill afford so unnecessary an Expence) the Court of Spain purchased that inestimable Collection of Pictures, Statues, and other prime Productions of Genius, which our unfortunate Charles the First, in the Days of his Power and Prosperity, had
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been collecting from all Parts of Europe, at so great a Cost; and which, after his tragical End, were sold by Order of the Parliament.

THE Truth was, that, like the Romans in the Times of their Corruption, the Spaniards were greedy, rapacious Plunderers of the Countries under their Subjection; and as many, if not most of their Governors, were too perfect Imitators of a *Verres*, it was no Wonder they shewed so little Solicitude for the Establishment and Culture of Arts at Home; when, without being indebted to the Talents of their own Countrymen, they could, by means of the Riches they extorted from every Province they were Masters of, obtain whatever Money can command.

THEIR Negligence in these Matters did not, however, affect their intellectual Pursuits, and they were not destitute of Men of prime Merit in the Republic of Letters.

IN the mean Time, through that Ascendancy, which is the natural Consequence
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of extensive Empire, and not a little through the great Opinion entertained of their national Abilities, as well as from the Necessity of Intercourse with a People who ruled over so many Countries, their Language grew diffusive, and was reputed a fashionable Accomplishment in genteel Life. Their Customs, and Manners too, were adopted throughout Europe, and their very Dress became the Standard of Imitation, even among their Enemies, as may be particularly instanced in the Court of Queen Elizabeth; a Woman, who notwithstanding her Greatness of Mind, and the Multiplicity of important Business, that ever kept her Abilities on the fullest Stretch, had yet so much of her Sex's Weakness in the Article of Apparel, that it is said near three thousand Suits of Dress were found in her Wardrobe at her Death; a Sumptuousness that ill agreed with her extreme Parsimony in other Matters.

THIS Prevalence of Spanish Fashions influenced all Europe in a Degree equal at least, if not superior, to that Infatuation which of late brought French Modes so much

much into Vogue ; and so closely were the Spaniards copied, that even the Circumstance of nocturnal Courtship, agreeable enough to their warm Climate, found its Way into the North, where the Custom of serenading their Mistresses became frequent among Lovers. An Absurdity which, from Milton's satyrical Mention of it, subsisted probably even in his Time.

THE Superiority that Spain assumed and maintained so long over the rest of Europe, began with Ferdinand, surnamed the Catholic, whose Successes in War, and immense Acquisitions of Territory, rendered him the greatest Monarch in Christendom. As he was rather of a morose Temper, and hated the Intrusion of much Company on his thoughtful, plodding Disposition, he devised those Forms and Regulations which were the Basis of that Etiquette established afterwards by his Successors ; and which, under the Pretence and Appearance of preserving the Dignity due to Majesty, contributed so effectually to cast a Heaviness and Gloom on their Courts. In order to keep his Subjects at

a Distance, and strike them with the greater Awe, he increased the Number of his domestic Retainers, and formed a military Attendance on his Person; in both which he was copied by our Henry the seventh, in his Institution of the Yeomen of the Guard; and by Lewis the eleventh of France, in that of the *Franc-Archers*, Free-Archers. These three Monarchs, indeed, bore a strong Resemblance of each other; equally suspicious, and full of Diffimulation, equally avaricious and expert in extorting Money from their Subjects, through various Pretexts, and equally mistrusted and hated by their Foes and Allies, and odious to their own People.

CHARLES the fifth, who succeeded him, had a Genius and Capacity equal to the great and continual Scenes of Activity that employed his whole Life. The Character of the Spaniards, in his Time, became that of a victorious, triumphant People; and their Weight in the political Scale of Europe was such, that both France and England were fain to forget their

their ancient Animosities, and often close in the firmest Union, to resist the Torrent of his Successes.

As this Monarch knew perfectly how to reconcile Majesty with Mildness and Affability, the System of Stateliness and Reserve invented by his Predecessor, was not pursued in his Reign; and an Ease and Freedom of Behaviour was uppermost in his Court; which contained too many Warriors, and was ever too much in motion, from his perpetual Travels, to indulge in those dark, mysterious Politics, only found under the Roof of those Princes whose Lives are spent at a Distance from the Field of Business, and whose Schemes are the Fruit of inactive Speculation.

BUT his Son, Philip the second, inheriting the genuine Spirit of Ferdinand, soon restored the Usages of which he had been the original Founder and Abettor. Frankness and Candour were quickly discarded, and Ambiguity and Finesse became the Channels through which Affairs were conducted. His favourite Ministers were

those who excelled in Craft and Subtlety ; while a generous, manly Turn of Mind was termed Inexperience and Precipitation. The Consequences were exactly such as his Father had foreseen and predicted. The Science of Intrigue became the most commendable Talent at Court ; and that Knowledge, on which only good Government is erected, that of the Inclinations and Interests of the Subject, was treated with Slight and Contempt. As if the Dispositions of a People were of Course to give way to the Will and Caprice of the Sovereign. This was the Rock on which Philip split, and which his Successors never strove to avoid ; thinking it beneath them to govern by Maxims different from his, who was, unhappily for his Country, esteemed a consummate Politician. But these Maxims were evidently narrow and circumscribed, and quite of the sordid, selfish, Machiavelian Kind. They consisted in embroiling every neighbouring State, and ruling his own by a standing Force. Thus he filled all the European Courts with his Emissaries ; by whose Machinations the Seeds of Division were sown

down every where; and his own Dominions he treated with the utmost Unfeelingness and Ferocity; violating their Liberties, without the least Remorse or Hesitation, annulling all those Immunities and Laws that stood in the Way of Oppression, and giving up to the Brutality of the Soldiery, whoever durst oppose his Incroachments. In short, acting without either Justice or Humanity, setting Conscience and Reputation at Defiance, and amply justifying the Idea of his Character, so completely and forcibly express'd in that celebrated Picture of Tyranny in the State's Assembly Room at the Hague, where he is represented trampling on the Rights and Privileges of Mankind, and brandishing the Sword of Persecution and Barbarity.

VERY different had been the Conduct of his Father; who in the general Tenour of his domestic Proceedings, took care to consult the Humour of his Subjects, and respected those Regulations that were too firmly established to be infringed without giving Umbrage and Dissatisfaction. Hence, tho' involved in a Series of uncea-

fighting Wars, and consequently ever in want of Money, he was so judicious and circumspectful in the Exaction of pecuniary Supplies, that he preserved the Affection of most of his People to the last: And in one Instance only, that of his Treatment of the Citizens of Ghent, deviated from that Equity and Mildness he had laid down as the Rule of his Government, and had Recourse to compulsory Measures: Of which however, he afterwards manifested a Repentance and Disapprobation, and strove, by a Return of Lenity, to efface the Remembrance.

Tho' Philip did so much Mischief to the World, yet he was qualified with the Title of *el Discreto*, the Wise, much in the same Strain of Flattery that Lewis the fourteenth was stiled the Great. So far was Philip from deserving such an Epithet, that to his Mal-administration may be fairly ascribed the Ruin of the Spanish Monarchy. With much more Truth and Propriety did his Enemies call him the Demon of the South,

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THERE is a striking Likeness between the Character of both these Princes. If Lewis the fourteenth was a better Man, yet it must also be allowed he was almost as bad a King. Their political Features exhibit a most fatal Similitude in every essential Part of the Comparison. Both made their Ambition the sole Standard of their Conduct, and carried their Pretensions as far as they thought their Arms would make them good. Thus the one seized Flanders, and the Franche Comté, and the other made himself Master of Portugal; to none of which Countries either had the least Shadow of Right. Lewis, instigated by a Spirit of Bigotry, persecuted his Protestant Subjects, and forced them to take Refuge among his Enemies, and strengthen them by an Accession of that Industry, which was a much heavier Loss to his Kingdom, than the prodigious Wealth they carried out of it. Philip had already set him the Example, and infuriated (if one may use such an Expression) by the evil Genius of Superstition, pursued with Fire and Sword all such among his People

whose Opinions he thought heretical ; and through the Terror of his Barbarities compelled the most valuable Part of them to seek a Shelter among the neighbouring Nations, and increase their Numbers, Riches, and Ingenuity in Manufactures and Trade. Lewis, by his unwarrantable Schemes, and Haughtiness of Conduct, excited a Confederacy that overturned all his Grandeur, reduced him to the most abject Situation, and his Realm to the most deplorable Condition. Philip had trod in the same Path, and by his iniquitous Designs of illegal Conquest, and Endeavours at lawless Oppression, raised up Alliances against him, and a Spirit of Opposition from every Quarter, which he strove, in vain, to overcome and suppress. His endless Enterprizes proved fruitless, in the most destructive Degree : They totally exhausted his Treasures, ruined his Fleets and Armies, lost him those Provinces that were the noblest Portion of his Inheritance, and, finally, left the Remainder of the Spanish Monarchy in a State of Disorder and Debility, from which it never was able to recover. Base and
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faithless in their Politics, they had nothing of that heroic Pride that scorns to take unworthy Advantages of a Foe, and *Dolus an Virtus*, Force or Fraud, seems to have been the ruling Maxim in all their Proceedings. Hence, their underhand, insidious Dealings among their Neighbours, and their treacherous Efforts to create Division among those whom, while united, they had not Courage to face. Thus Lewis, by pretending a Desire to bring the English Nation under the absolute Influence of a Monarch and Court, who were ignobly become his Pensioners, laboured, with all his Might, to revive those Scenes of Discord, which French Policy, under the ministerial Guidance of a Richelieu, had so flagitiously promoted. Philip, in the same Manner, by espousing the Cause of the League (whose Chiefs and principal Abettors were all in his Pay) fomented the Troubles of France, to the utmost of his Power. To complete the Likeness, they were both governed alternately by Women and Priests; and both died inglorious; equally hated and despised by their Enemies and Subjects. The
Death

Death of Philip was attended with Circumstances peculiarly superstitious and absurd. Unable to stifle the Remorse he felt on the Review of his Life, and while his Conscience sat brooding over the Recollection of his Guilt, he bethought himself of such an Expedient to set his Mind at Ease, as proved him as infatuated a Bigot as ever existed. A legal Writing was drawn formally authenticated by a Lawyer, whereby the King's Confessor agreed to insure his Salvation, on Condition of his punctual Performance of whatever should be enjoined him by way of Penance for his past Misdeeds. The Confessor, on the other Hand, consenting to become answerable if there were any Flaws or Deficiencies in the Atonement he was thus authorised to prescribe. The latter Moments of Lewis were more worthy of a Man; but he had suffered himself during the last Years of his Reign, to be so grossly deluded by that restless Enthusiast Le Tellier, as to throw his whole Kingdom into a most violent Fermentation, on account of those abstruse Points in Religion,

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concerning which he was so unwisely solicitous to establish an Uniformity of Opinion.

THE History of these two memorable Princes affords the most important of all Lessons to succeeding ones : As they remain signal Examples that it neither is the Wealth nor Power of a State on which it is to depend for Prosperity, so much as on Moderation and Management. These two main Supports they both wanted. And though no Sovereigns ever expended larger Sums, nor could boast of better disciplined Troops, or abler Generals, yet none ever did less with so many Advantages.

THE Resemblance between them might still be carried further in many Particulars. Such for Instance as the Doubtfulness of their personal Resolution, to give it no harsher Term. Philip, during the Battle of St. Quintin, betrayed the most ridiculous Apprehensions ; and while his Army was engaging the French, lay prostrate before an Altar, in Company with some Friars. Lewis turned pale in a Council of War, held

held in his Presence, where the Majority were for giving Battle to our William the third, then Prince of Orange; whose Forces were so posted, that an Action seemed unavoidable. Their Profusion was nearly similar in many Articles of unnecessary and useless Magnificence. In their Transactions with other Princes, and Intercourse with their own People, they both assumed an Arrogance that roused the Indignation of the former, and banished all Confidence from the latter.

To conclude the Parallel, they both lavished the Treasure and Blood of their Subjects, without the least Shame or Compunction; and what still was of worse Consequence, through the Perniciousness of their Example, bequeathed, as it were, to their Successors, a Spirit of Ambition and Tyranny, that entered into all their Councils, and perverted the Talents of all their Ministers, who too faithfully pursued those Plans of Aggrandisement, that had already proved no less impracticable than unjust. In the mean Time, the Welfare of the Public was sacrificed to Court-Selfishness and

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Despotism,

Despotism, in both Countries. In Spain, the Remains of the industrious, labouring Moors (whose Numbers were immense) were oppressed, plundered, and at last condemned to universal Expulsion. In France, the commercial and trading Part of the Community, were treated with unexampled Severity, and by the most infamous Edicts deprived, through Pretext of State Necessity, of all their Acquisitions, and reduced to unpitied Distress.

SUCH, in general, were the Effects of the Politics of those deluded Princes; whose Reigns may be justly deemed the Date of Oppression and Misery to their respective Kingdoms.

IN Imitation of their Sovereigns, a proportionable Share of that Pride and Haughtiness which flows from erroneous Notions of Grandeur, tainted the Mind, and infected the Behaviour of such among their Subjects as acted by their Commission; whose Presumption and Petulance of Deportment, became remarkably insufferable, and contributed not a little to make their

Monarchs

Monarchs odious. Complaints of this Nature were loud in all Parts of Europe, against the Natives of France and of Spain; who by manifesting, on all Occasions, an arrogant Persuasion, that the Merit and Dignity of their Court and Nation were so transcendant as to silence all Pretences of Comparison, excited, at last, so envious and hostile an Emulation, as quickly convinced them how dangerous it is to make a Parade of Superiority.

THE Ministers of other Powers, unwilling to bend before them in any Shape, studiously sought Opportunities to mortify them. Thus, while the Spanish Armada was impending over England, and had filled the Spaniards with Insolence, an English Deputy, at a Congress where they pretended to be desirous of Peace, resolutely answered them with those Words (which Oliver Cromwell took many Years after for his Motto) *Pax quæritur Bello*, Peace must be earned by War. In the same Manner, when Lewis the Fourteenth, intoxicated with Flattery, had taken the Sun for his Device, as a French Ambassador was

was expatiating on his Master's Greatness, and comparing it to the universal Influence of that Luminary, a foreign Minister calmly bid him write the Word Phaeton, by Way of Motto under it. Such Replies were frequently necessary to stop the Torrent of Imperiousness that characterised the Spaniards and French, in those Days of their transitory Splendor.

THEIR respective Courts were then become so radically habituated to Mischief, that no Bars, either of Honesty or Honour, could set any Limits to their Propensity to contrive and carry on the most ignominious Schemes.

WITNESS the infamous Plot of Spain against the Republic of Venice, under the Auspices of that iniquitous Triumvirate, each Member of which must have stifled every Sentiment of Justice and Humanity, before he could have consented to be accessory in such a Scene of Villainy. Witness those criminal Intrigues of France at the Ottoman Court, and among the Mal-contented of Hungary, which, without any of
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that Necessity of Self-Preservation, so often pleaded in the Defence or Mitigation of odious Measures, from no other Motives than those of groundless Malice, involved the imperial Branch of Austria in the most imminent Danger of absolute and total Destruction.

WHILE the Spanish Ministries were employed in contriving iniquitous Projects abroad, their Unfeelingness and Inhumanity were not unfrequently experienced at Home; and as if they had determined to make no Distinction between Friend and Foe, they often exercised unjustifiable, and wanton Severities on their most useful and deserving Subjects. A Precedent transmitted to them, by their Predecessors in Office, for upwards of a Century before.

THUS, notwithstanding their implicit Obedience, and unrestricted Fidelity, Individuals in Spain had little to boast of the Government's Memory of past Services; on the contrary, those who had Reason to expect the highest Encouragements

ments and Rewards, generally met with the most trying Mortifications. The cruel Usage of the great Columbus, the Injustices done to the celebrated Cortes, and the injurious Treatment of almost all those daring Adventurers, to whose Labours and Successes they had such immense Obligations, are sufficient Proofs of what is here asserted.

It must, however, be confessed, that with all their Faults, the Spaniards, until the Battle of Rocroy, which began their final Downfal, continued indisputably the first Nation in Europe. Their unshaken Constancy in not desponding under the Burden of universal Enmity; their steady Perseverance in maintaining their Ground in every Spot of their Dominions, however distant from Relief; their Firmness and Resolution in supporting their Claims, and carrying on a fourscore Years War against the Dutch, or rather against all Europe (the open or secret Assistance of whose principal Powers had never failed the latter) their Conquests in America; their Victories over the Turks; their Reduction

of Portugal ; and above all, the Respect and Terror they impressed upon their Foes, in the midst of so many Difficulties to contend with, all these are Facts that render the Spaniards of that Æra a People truly great and memorable.

THEIR Knowledge in naval, and in military Affairs, was, during a long Space of Time, superior to that of all other Nations ; whose Instructors they were, at their own Cost, in those Departments. The fitting out of the famous Armada against England, was the noblest Effort of the Kind ever known till then. Even the Enterprize itself discovered no common Courage and Daringness. Sir Francis Vere, an able Judge in these Matters, commends highly, in his Memoirs, their Excellence and Expertness in framing naval Regulations. The great Prince Maurice, and Henry the Fourth of France (no less a General than King) spoke with equal Praise of their military Discipline ; acknowledging them their Tutors in the Art of War. The Annals of those Times abound with Specimens of their Abilities and Bravery.

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Of the first, let the Siege of Ostend bear Witness, the Accounts remaining of which (even now that the Science of War has received such additional Improvements) are, by the ablest Connoisseurs, still read with Admiration. Of the last, let their intrepid Passage of the Scheld into Zealand, serve as an Instance; an Action never surpassed in ancient or modern History.

THE Truth is, that in those Days, an enthusiastic Ardour for Glory was the ruling Passion of the Spaniards; and that notwithstanding the ill Management of their Ministers in the internal Departments of Government, yet, as the other European States, with few Exceptions, were almost equally faulty in that Particular, they still found Means to retain a sufficient Degree of Ascendancy, and to remain formidable to such as acted on no wiser a Plan than themselves.

THE French were still plunged in civil Broils. They had little to apprehend from Germany, where the Ties of Consanguinity and Ambition, secured them an Inte-

rest in the Imperial Family. The Trade of England was in its Infancy ; so was that of Holland. The best Parts of Italy, and of the Low Countries, and all Portugal was their own, beside America. From all these they drew a sufficient Fund to make Head against Enemies who had no such Resources, and who rather acted on the Defensive ; for excepting the Expedition of the English to Cadiz, we find none of any Note against the Spaniards ; while they, on the other Hand, were busy in attacking the French, English, and Dutch in their own Countries, and keeping them in continual Alarms. But towards the middle of Philip the Fourth's Reign, Spain, already considerably weakened by the Mismanagement of its two preceding Monarchs, was beginning to totter on all Sides ; not so much from the Decrease of territorial Dominion (its Losses in that Respect were trifling) as from the Increase of the Commerce and naval Power of the Dutch and the English, its most dangerous Adversaries ; both of whom, in Conjunction with the French, (the first under the Ministry of Richelieu, the second during that of Mazarin) gave

Spain

Spain so many signal Blows, and so much enfeebled it, that the Peace of the Pyrenees was at last the only Measure left to save that Kingdom from utter Destruction.

HENCEFORWARD we see nothing of Spain, for a long Course of Years, but a *Magni Nominis Umbra*, the Shadow of a mighty Name. A People of scarce any Weight in the political Scale of Europe; and what is very remarkable, though little diminished in the Extent of their Possessions, unable to face any of those Powers singly, against the collected Strength of which they had heretofore been an equal Match; nay even glad to accept, and obliged to court the Assistance of those whom they had formerly oppressed, or endeavoured to subdue. At the Conclusion of the last Century, Spain was enervated to such a Degree, that foreign Powers used no Ceremony in dividing it into Portions, as Freebooters do a Prize, without its Consent or even Knowledge of the different Partitions they were making of its disjointed Provinces.

SINCE the Bourbon Family has been seated on the Throne, the Genius and Activity of some celebrated foreign Statesmen, has endeavoured to restore Life and Vigour to the Councils of the Spanish Court and Nation; but their Efforts succeeded no farther than to excite a temporary Spirit of Action, which being unsupported by any solid Foundation, and only due to the extraordinary Exertion of their own Abilities, quickly subsided, and gave Way to the Torpor that seemed to claim a Sort of Prescription in all their public Concerns; and as if it had been an Innovation of a criminal Nature to have attempted the Establishment of a contrary System, the Authors of these active Measures were discarded, and banished the very Realm, in order, as it were, that they might prove no Obstruction to Things returning into their former Channel.

TRUE it is, that the Family-Pride and Ambition of its Rulers has, of late Years, occasioned some further Motions on the Part of Spain; but the Designs they were directed to second, were personal and selfish,
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and as they had no Connection with the Utility and Interest of that Kingdom, they only served to plunge it into endless Difficulties, and to impoverish a State, already debilitated to the extremest Degree; and whose Situation, far from being able to afford Countenance to any Projects of external Aggrandisement, required a long Course of pacific Schemes to retrieve it from the ruinous Condition to which a Series of bad Policy had reduced it.

SUCH has been the Fate of the Spanish Empire, the former Grandeur of which still dwells on the Memory of the Spaniards; in this particular not unlike the Turks, whose past Glory is still the Subject of their present Boast; and who are vain enough to imagine the World respects them as much, as when their Arms were spreading Terror through Nations, at that Time, less trained and less inured to War than themselves.

A RESEMBLANCE subsists between them in several other Instances. Though curtailed in their Limits, they yet are Owners

of immense Tracts, which they govern much in the same Manner; leaving the Direction of Things in the Hands of a few supreme Administrators, and taking but little Notice of the secondary Departments of the State, and scarce any at all of the lower and remote Parts of the Community; whose Welfare, however connected with, and necessary for the Support of the higher and more conspicuous, is most miserably neglected, and in a Manner treated as a Thing of no Consequence.

THUS they both possess a great Empire with little Advantage to themselves, though to the prodigious Emolument of others. Notwithstanding the Experience of Centuries has shewn that many of their Customs and Institutions, however they might have been proper at first, are by the Vicissitudes that have since taken Place, become obsolete and inconsistent with the present System of Things, yet a Fondness and Veneration for old Customs, and a Kind of political Superstition, restrains them from embracing new ones. The Turkish Militia remains much on the same Footing it was

was at the Taking of Constantinople, three hundred Years ago ; and the Spanish Commerce to America, is still carried on nearly in the Manner settled at its Commencement.

MONTESQUIEU, speaking of the Conquest of Greece by the Romans, assigns, as one of the Causes, the obstinate Adherence of the Greeks to their ancient Forms of military Discipline. *Il ne pût leur venir dans l'Esprit de renoncer à des Usages avec lesquels ils avoient fait de si grandes choses.* They could not conceive the Necessity of abandoning those Practices, through Means of which they had done such great Things. Thus the Janissaries are still infatuated with the Notion of the superior Excellence of their Scymitars over any other offensive Arms ; and that having been the Weapon of principal Use in War, during the triumphant Period of the Turkish Empire, they cannot be prevailed on to relinquish it for the Musket and Bayonet, which some of their best Officers have in vain endeavoured to induce them to give the Preference to. A similar Sort of Delusion has probably operated,

operated, in some Measure, among the leading Men in Spain. As the Idea of their former Superiority over the rest of Europe, is associated with that of their domestic Government and Policy at that Time, (to their fatal Mistakes in which their Ruin is chiefly owing) they possibly may have all along ascribed the Downfall of their Grandeur to other Causes than the real ; and entertain, therefore, no Thought of deviating from that long beaten Career of erroneous Management in the interior Administration of their Affairs at Home, the Treatment and Regulation of their Colonies Abroad, and the commercial Communication between both.

THERE is certainly no Country in Europe where the Government is weaker, and less Vigour and Activity perceivable in all its component Parts. A stated systematical Course of Indolence, seems to preside almost every where ; and Labour, an Inclination to which appears congenial to the Nature of Mankind in other Nations, is here looked upon with an Aversion, which
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the Extremes of Indigence and Misery are not able to conquer.

THE Aspect of the Land is, in most Parts, the Picture of Wretchedness ; and no small Portions, of many Provinces, consist of uncultivated Deserts, which, to the Shame of Administration, might, with a moderate Share of Industry, become the Seats of Plenty. Towns and Villages are generally found at a most inhospitable Distance from each other ; and the latter often look more like the Receptacles of Mendicants, than the Habitations of Tillers of the Ground : A Race of Mortals in this Country, who take but small Pains, indeed, in their Vocation. Agriculture with them, is little more than scratching the Surface of the Earth ; and were it not for its admirable Fecundity, and the very flight Cultivation it demands, Famines must unavoidably be the frequent Lot of a People who think even this Semblance of Labour, a heavy Burden ; and are often, from their Neglect of it, in Want of those Supplies of Grain from Abroad, of which they might, with

with some Degree of Care, afford so copious an Exportation.

SPAIN is no Country for Travellers. Those Conveniences and Accommodations of all Kinds that invite the Curious to visit other Parts, are almost utterly unknown in this unfrequented Region; where, as the sordid Dwellings of Individuals, are but thinly scattered, one cannot expect to meet with that Preparation of Necessaries which Populoufness only can suppose. Hence their Inns are Poverty itself, and afford nothing but House-Room.

HAD Erasmus travelled in Spain, he probably would have bestowed a Colloquy on his Journey, still more curious than his Account of the German Fashion of entertaining Travellers; a Subject which, (though he has treated it very facetiously) would have yielded to the much ampler Fund of Humour, that a Tour in Spain would have afforded him. A French Lady, however, has left a Journal of her Voyage to Madrid, performed about eighty Years ago, which will abundantly serve to convey
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a true Notion of the idle, indolent, and listless Disposition of the Natives, no material Alterations of their Manners having happened since then, if we except the Court and its Dependants, whose Etiquette and Modes of Living, have undergone some Changes since the Accession of the reigning Family ; but whose Influence is not so generally felt as in other Kingdoms, where the Communication between the different Provinces is attended with Facility and Speed. In Spain, the Embarrassments in the Way of it are such, that the Grandees, whose Estates lie at any considerable Distance from Madrid, seldom or never visit them ; and the local Knowledge of many among them, reaches but little further than that Metropolis.

Few indeed are their Inducements to what we call Jaunting. Places of pleasurable Resort are unknown ; and all Amusements center in or near the Capital. But this proceeds, in great Measure, from their own Carelessness and Inactivity ; were they to be more in Motion, the Country would certainly derive many Benefits from
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their Presence ; Improvements would be the natural Consequence every where, and the Inconveniences that now attend on travelling in Spain, would soon be considerably lessened.

BUT after all, beside the Escorial, and a few, very few other Things, little is to be seen worth the Fatigue and Expence of a Journey thither ; of this Travellers are sufficiently sensible ; its lying Southward of what is called the grand Tour, is not the Discouragement that keeps them at a Distance. There is a more rational one ; which is, that while a Variety of excellent Accounts are daily met with of other Parts of Europe, no tolerable Description has hitherto been published of Spain ; whence they not unfairly conclude it contains very little worthy of Notice.

THE first Proof that occurs to a Stranger of the Supineness and Indolence of the Spaniards, is the Indifference with which a Spanish Innkeeper receives his Guests, and the Averseness he discovers to wait upon them. This, in some Places, is carried to
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such an Excess, that though Provisions are cheap and easy to procure (a Circumstance that one would naturally imagine he would improve to his Advantage) yet, so great is the Laziness of many, that even immediate Gain has not Power to rouse them from Sloth; and a Traveller is not only left to provide his own Sustenance, but often to dress it.

SOME have imagined that this general Propensity to Idleness in the Natives of Spain, was owing originally to their long and bloody Wars with the Moors; during which, say they, little could be attended to but fighting, as they were so hard pressed, that nothing but the mountainous Recesses, they were compelled to take Refuge in, could have sheltered them from Oppression. Hence they forgot all Manner of Solitude for the Conveniences and Comforts of Life, and through long Habit, became at last, fully contented with those bare Necessaries that are earned with little Fatigue.

HOWEVER plausible this Argument may seem, at first Sight, yet, when we reflect
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that the Moors were not always successful in every Quarter, and according to the Chances of War, sometimes were the ruled, as well as, at other Times, the ruling People, in the various petty Kingdoms; and that consequently both Nations must have lived together intermixed for the Course of several Ages, this naturally supposes an Extinction of that Ferocity, which possibly might have reciprocally subsisted in their primitive Wars. The real Truth is, that these alternate Conquests and Subjections, were not accompanied with much Barbarity or Devastation, especially on the Part of the Moors. These were the mildest of Conquerors, and at that Time, the most civilized People in the World. The Arts and Sciences so flourished among them, that they became the Preceptors of those western Parts of Europe, possessed by the Descendants of the Goths, and of the other northern Nations that destroyed the Roman Empire; who adopted their Learning, were highly benefited by the Fruits of their Ingenuity, and even drew the Notion of what is vulgarly, though ignorantly, stiled Gothic Architecture from the Moors; much

much in the same Manner that the ancient Romans received their Knowledge and Improvements from the Greeks. The additional Consideration that these Moors were industrious in the supremest Degree, and that even now, those Provinces in Spain, which abound most in their Posterity, are the best cultivated, and their Inhabitants the least addicted to Idleness of any in the Kingdom; this, and the antecedent Remarks, clearly demonstrate that it is not from the Moorish Æra we are to date the Proneness of the Spaniards to Indolence; of which they certainly could derive no Examples nor Encouragement from their Conquerors.

If we advert to Facts, we may trace it much higher. Very ancient Writers have left it on Record, that it was deemed honourable among the Spaniards, even in the Time of the Romans, to subsist on Plunder and Rapine, and that Labour was by no Means in Repute among them. A Truth not less known to the Carthaginians, who were perfectly acquainted with the Science of availing themselves of this Aversion to

Toil in the Spaniards; and accordingly drew immense Riches from a Country replete with the most valuable Mines, and endowed with all Manner of Fertility. This their Predecessors the Phœnicians, had done before them. But the Carthaginians went a Step further; and when they had tasted the Sweets of so wealthy a Region, they never rested till they had made it their own by Colonies and Conquests. All this could not have been effected if the Inhabitants had been a hardy, laborious Race, firmly settled by stated Callings and Occupations throughout the various Parts of the Land. In such a Situation, they would have regularly and successfully united for the Defence of their Property against those Invaders, it being notorious that the Carthaginians, notwithstanding their Wealth, and the immense Armies it enabled them to maintain, were so deficient in military Skill, that none but orderless and ill-connected Nations had much Reason to fear them; as it conspicuously appeared in the invincible Resistance they met with from those handful of Greeks established in Sicily,

Sicily, on whom the whole Weight of their Power could never make any Impression.

WE may therefore conclude, that the true original Spaniards, as well as the Goths, who by Inter-marriages were ingrafted upon that Stock, were of old, what they who are sprung from their Blood remain to this Day, a Generation of Men impatient of manual Toil where much Ingenuity and Application are requisite; and active only in those Scenes that may be transacted without a constant Rotation of habitual Assiduity.

HENCE it is they form most excellent Soldiers, a Profession for which that Turn of Mind is best calculated, which can make a sudden Transition from great Leisure to uncommon Alertness; and though their military Qualifications may seem convertible, when we turn our Eyes to the several prosperous Invasions of their Country, yet it is certain they never were subdued through Want of Courage, but only from a Defect of Union and good Order among themselves. Whenever the Go-

vernment has been tolerably conducted, and a Spirit of Enterprize infused into the People, by the Vigilance and Industry of Administration, they have made it apparent, that Lethargy and Supineness are not so inherent in their Temper, as to prevent them from embracing Opportunities of signalizing themselves ; and this they have occasionally done with a Readiness and Alacrity that afford convincing Proofs it is not Toil itself, so much as the particular Modes of Toiling to which they are averse ; an Assertion amply verified by the terrible Hardships and Fatigues they so chearfully underwent in their numberless American Adventures.

CARDINAL Alberoni, a penetrating Judge, and who, by having held the Post of Prime Minister in that Kingdom, had acquired a competent Insight into their Disposition, used often to say that the Spaniards were the fittest of all Tools for a daring Politician to work with ; as their Genius, however slow and tardy in silent, pacific Undertakings, was susceptible of the keenest Ardour and Impetuosity in those
public,

public, national Projects that were attended with Brilliancy and Eclât.

IN those Departments of War, where a calm, patient Resolution is the principal Requisite, no Nation has ever surpassed them; their steady Coolness in Danger, fitting them admirably for Defence; and even on those Occasions, where the most lively Exertion of Valour has been necessary, they have proved that the utmost Vivacity in military Transactions, is by no Means incompatible with the heaviest Languor in the ordinary Business and Occurrences of civil, domestic Life.

A GENERAL, to whose Abilities in the Field Philip the Fifth, first Prince of the Bourbon Family in Spain, was not a little indebted for the Preservation of his Crown, the great Marshal Vendome, often spoke of the Spaniards, as Men endowed with all the soldierly Qualities of the different European Troops he was acquainted with: The Sobriety, Obedience, and Docility of the Italians; the sedate Firmness of the Germans; the Fire and Impetuosity of the French;

French ; and the Intrepidity and Resolution of the English ; and who exceeded them all in that untameable Perseverance, with which they struggled with Difficulties.

It must, however, be granted, that their Repugnance to the tranquil Occupations of peaceable Society, is the Source of many enormous Evils.

As Mendicity is a Situation very irksome to haughty Minds, and as there are Abundance of Individuals of this Cast in Spain, reduced by Self-Neglect to a Condition that forces them either to beg or steal, the latter, of Consequence, becomes their Choice. Hence Robberies formerly rendered the Roads in Spain, the most insecure of any in Europe ; and through the Frequency of Banditti, and their associating in Clans, to carry on a regular Course of Depredation (much after the Manner described in Gil Blas) People were often obliged to travel in Caravans, well armed and prepared for a Rencontre.

THE high Roads, indeed, are at present less dangerous, and except when the Harvest

vest fails, (which by a general Diffusion of extreme Want, makes the lowest Sort desperate) Travelling is become much safer, especially in the northern Parts, where since the Accession of the House of Bourbon, a greater Intercourse and Communication has been opened between France and Spain. The Number of Thieves and Vagrants, however, is not diminished; and though they dare not infest the Public as they did before, the Suppression of this Evil has only served to sharpen their Dexterity in clandestine Villanies.

THOSE, on the other Hand, who chuse to relieve their Necessities, by applying to the Liberality of others, are, though not so dangerous, yet, if possible, a greater Nuisance than the former. They swarm in all Parts; and no Place, however sacred or respectable, is, if a public one, secluded from their Intrusion. Inns and Churches particularly are full of them; and whether at their Meals or Devotions, Persons are liable to their Importunities every where, unless within their own Doors.

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THEY,

THEY, who by a narrow Pittance, are just placed above the Reach of Hunger, seem by their whole Conduct to think Nourishment the only Point to be provided for ; and are as fond of loitering away their Time as young Spendthrifts, Heirs to large Estates. Thus, without any Shame for the Shabbiness of their Apparel, and without any Care for the Article of Habitation, they avail themselves of the Clemency of their Winter-Days to bask in the Sun ; and during the Heat of the Summer, they sleep in the Shade, and keep their Walk for the Night.

THIS Description is not restricted to the ignorant and illiterate Part of the Community. Incredible Numbers of those who have been decently educated, and who deservedly bear the Character of being sensible and judicious in other Respects, are equally tainted with this contagious and general Apathy and Neglect of those Means of bettering their Circumstances that are so eagerly sought, and so sedulously improved, by the Majority of People in more industrious Nations.

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AND yet, if we were to judge of the Spaniards from their Conversation and external Demeanour, their Character would be almost unimpeachable. An Air of Gravity and Deliberation reigns in all their Discourses; and their personal Deportment is full of Circumspection and Wariness not to give the least Offence. In order to secure a civil and respectful Treatment, they maintain a Reserve and Stateliness, which effectually precludes that Strain of loose, unguarded Familiarity, from whence Disrespect and Slight usually proceed. This Gravity and Decency of Speech and Behaviour, accompanies them upon all Emergencies; and when they differ in Opinion, or even when Altercations arise of a more serious Nature, they are managed with much less of that verbal Acrimony, which disgraces the Disputes of their Neighbours.

THERE is but one Instance wherein the Spaniards are guilty of transgressing the Bounds of Moderation, and that is when they converse about their Country and State; notwithstanding the Feebleness of which,

which, and the prodigious Decline of its former Power and Importance, they cannot forbear thinking highly, and speaking haughtily of their national Consequence; and in Spite of the many Disappointments in their ministerial Measures, betray a romantic Confidence in their Valour and Capacity.

WHATEVER Zeal the French may boast for their King, the Spaniards are not less attached to theirs, with this Difference, that in Spain it is a judicious Respect, while in France it is an extravagant Affection, carried sometimes to so ridiculous a Height, that Persons have been known to kiss the King's Sign Manual with as much Rapture, as a Lover would a Letter sent him by his Mistress.

LOYALTY, in Spain, is a Submission to the Sovereign, founded on Reason. In France, it is a blind Homage inspired by Passion. The Spaniards are good Subjects from Motives of Subordination; the French from partial Warmth for their Prince; whose every Deed, they are, in
general,

general, too ready to applaud, merely because proceeding from him. Thus, when Lewis the Fourteenth, at the Age of Seventeen, entered the Parliament-House at Paris, booted and spurred, with a Horse-whip in his Hand, and put an End to its Session, (much in the same Manner, Cromwel did, about the same Time, to that of England) the Bloom of his Youth, the Handsomeness of his Person, and the Air of Greatness he assumed on the Occasion, were more attended to, and won him more Hearts and Favourers among an infatuated People, than the tyrannical Exercise of his Power excited Murmur and Indignation among the thinking few who durst dissent from the unreflecting Multitude.

THE Spaniards have commonly Firmness enough to disapprove of their Monarch's Conduct when they judge it inconsistent with his Duty. This is the more esteemable in them, as, of the two, they live in far greater Subjection to their Court, than the French, whose Parliaments still retain the Privilege of representing Grievances to the Throne; while in Spain, no settled Medium

Medium of respectable Communication remains between the Nation and its Head; whose Knowledge of the Discontents that may arise in the political Body, can only be conveyed to him by particular Members, acting in a private Capacity, and whose Patriotism having no public, constitutional Warrant for its Exertion, for that Reason dares seldom go farther than bare Hints and Insinuations, which have Weight, or meet with Disregard, as their Authors happen to be in, or out of Favour, with their royal Master.

THIS Dignity of Sentiment is peculiarly deserving of Notice in their Grandees, who are very far from resembling the French Courtiers in their unlimited Adulation; and in the midst of their Deference for Majesty, still preserve a Remnant of Reverence for themselves. A Character, to which the Privilege claimed, and asserted by them, of being covered even in the King's Presence, may not improbably have contributed, from that often imperceptible, though not less operating Connection between Causes and Effects, which frequently renders

renders Customs seemingly unimportant, productive of the most material Consequences. Whence-ever it may proceed, they are seldom guilty of that pusillanimous Sacrifice of all Considerations to that of Court-Interest, for which the primest of the Nobility in France, are so shamefully remarkable.

THE Truth is, there is less of Ductility in the Temper of the Spaniards; and however they may be willing to chime in a-while with the Humours and Manners of the Times, they retain enough of that laudable Misanthropy, that Contempt for the wrong Notions of the prejudiced Vulgar, to wean themselves from Mankind when they grow tired of the World. This they have Sense enough to become, when Age and Experience have convinced them of the Vanity of Parade and Ostentation, and how little of real, solid Enjoyment, there exists in that Rotation of exterior Gaieties, whose Appearance promises so much to the Inexpert.

THIS seldom is the Case of a French Man of Fashion, who generally continues
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to the last, true to the System he set out upon during his Youth ; unwilling to acknowledge himself unqualified and past the Date of making a Figure in Life, he still treads the public Stage, though no longer able to do it with any Degree of Decency ; and obstinately perseveres in acting, as it were, the Spectre of himself, in Spite of those mortifying Admonitions he momentarily sees in the *lasciva decentius Ætas*, the more becoming Sprightliness of his Juniors ; in whose Eyes his Endeavours and Solitude to imitate their Juvenilities, appear a Sort of tacit Confession that they are the essential Qualities, through Means of which, their Reputation is to be established, and their Rise effected. Thus, in France, young and old mutually contribute to defeat the Purposes of Nature in each other ; the young, by a ridiculous Admiration and Encouragement of those affected Airs of Vivacity, that sit so unbecomingly on Age, and by paying their principal Attention to such as can best forget their own Seniority. The old, by a servile Condescension to the Opinions and Humours of the youthful Classes, and a needless and detrimental

trimental Suspension, or rather indeed, a Renunciation of the natural Right of controuling by the Authority annexed to Years (while dignified by a Propriety of Behaviour) the Sallies of Conceit and Licentiousness, and of inculcating those Lessons of Wisdom, whose best and only effectual Recommendation, is the Conduct and Example of the Preceptor.

FROM this great Disparity of Humours between the French and Spaniards, a Circumstance arises, that strongly denotes the much deeper, and more rooted Attachment of the former to Life and its Concomitances. When that Period is arrived, which according to the usual Course of Nature, deprives Men of the Alertness and Vivacity of Body and Mind, absolutely necessary for the Dispatch of Business of a public, and national Importance, it is a common Thing for Spaniards of the highest Figure, to make a decent Retreat, and spend in Calmness and Tranquility, the Evening of their Days.

ACCORDING to Sir William Temple, Fifty is the Term at which a Cessation from
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the Hurry of Affairs should take Place in a wise Man's Desires. Though they may not always be willing to withdraw so soon, yet neither can they be censured for waiting till Age and Infirmities compel them to Retirement. Some of them, to sanctify their Plan of Solitude, have entered into holy Orders, or associated themselves to some religious Fraternity, to atone by the Purity of their latter Lives, for the Irregularity of their former. Thus the celebrated Duke of Lerma, after having acted the Part of prime Minister many Years, retired at last, and dedicated the Remainder of his Time to Devotion ; adding to the Dignity of Cardinal, with which he had long been decorated, the Duty of Priesthood, the Functions of which he daily performed in the most exemplary Manner. His Rival and Successor in the Ministry, Count Duke d'Olivares, as he was stiled, closed his latter Scene also in a pious Recess. We find many such Instances in Spain, of Persons in high Stations abandoning the World ; their Kings themselves not excepted ; witness the famous Charles the Fifth, who set, in a Manner, the Precedent, by

by divesting himself of Royalty, and living an absolute Recluse two full Years before his Death. Of latter Days, Philip the Fifth resigned the Crown to his Son Lewis; after whose Demise, he was with Difficulty prevailed upon to resume it; so powerfully had both these Monarchs, neither of whom was born in Spain, imbibed through long Use and Habit, the Notions and Temper of the Nation into which they had been adopted.

SOME indeed, have imputed these Retreats from the World to Dotage and Bigotry, rather than to a reasonable Inclination to enjoy the Peace and Serenity of a philosophical Retirement, after the Bustle of Life was over; but, without absolving the Spaniards entirely from this Charge, they who are so ready to undervalue them, would do well to reflect, that in other Countries, where the Romish Religion is as prevalent as in Spain, and the People are as superstitious, we do not find they resemble the Spaniards in the above-mentioned Particularity, which, however, by a Parity

of Reasoning, they ought to do, if such a Conduct was merely the Effect of Superstition.

THE Truth is, that Ambition is a far more durable Passion in the Individuals of some other Nations, especially in the French. Richelieu, Mazarin, Colbert, Louvois, and others, kept their Posts to the last; and even the venerable Fleury left not the Helm in the very Extremity of Age.

NOTWITHSTANDING a fervent Adherence to the Ideas infused by their religious Tenets, the better Sort of the Spaniards have Impartiality enough to do full Justice to the Merit of others who happen to be of a different Persuasion. As they are natively Men of keen Penetration, and from the Circumspectfulness of their Disposition, dive deeply into Characters, so when, by a patient and profound Examination, they discover the Worthiness of any Person, they are never backward in acknowledging it, in and making him sensible of their Esteem and Readiness to serve him. This was eminently exemplified in the Case of the
Earl

Earl of Bristol, the English Ambassador at the Court of Madrid in the Reign of our James the first. That Nobleman, though engaged in a Negociation by no Means acceptable to the Spanish Nobility, the Treaty of Marriage between their Infanta, and our Charles the first, then Prince of Wales, and notwithstanding he had often convinced them, by undoubted Proofs, of his Aversion to the Romish Religion, and had signally demonstrated his Zeal for the Protestant, yet as he had always behaved with Uprightness and Candour in the Duties of his Embassy, and had displayed an equal Fund of Integrity and Spirit both in his public and private Intercourse, so great and real was the Regard and Respect he had obtained at that Court, that when he was recalled, and it was foreseen that the Weakness of his Master would sacrifice him to the malicious Enmity of the Duke of Buckingham, the King nobly proffered him a Rank and Income in Spain equal to those he possessed in England, together with the fullest Liberty of Conscience.

THE Firmness and Probity of Lord Clarendon, who was sent by Charles the second, during his Exile, to treat in his Favour with the Spanish Ministry, was attended likewise with the most honourable Marks of Distinction ; and the most flattering Asylum was offered to his Acceptance, if ever he should, by an Increase of his Master's Calamities, or his own Misfortunes, be reduced to the Condition of wanting one.

LORD Cottington, who chose in those distracted Times to leave the Scenes of Confusion in his own Country, and end his Days in Spain, abundantly experienced the beneficent Hospitality of the Spaniards ; and needed not have paid them the Compliment of a Conformity with their Religion, to have secured himself the most gracious Reception.

IF the Spaniards are partial to any Nation, it is certainly towards the English ; between whose Temper and their own a Sympathy subsists in many Respects ; and for whom

whom, in general, they seem to entertain a much higher Degree of Esteem than for any other. Political Views may possibly influence them in our Behalf; as it is a common saying among them, that provided they are at Peace with England, it is no Matter if they are at War with all the Rest of the World.

BUT from whatever Motive this favourable Disposition to us may arise, our Traders among them have, on the Eruption of some late Wars, found a Friendliness and Punctuality in the Observance of their private Agreements, which reflects the higher Honour on their national Fidelity as Individuals, as the unfair, oppressive Measures pursued by those in Power almost amounted to downright Acts of Hostility. Such a Conduct plainly shewed that, whatever might be the Politics and Designs of the Court, the Hearts of the Nation were still with us, and desired no Violation of that Amity which the reciprocal Interest of both People required.

To this superior Opinion in Favour of our Countrymen, is owing their implicit Confidence in our commercial Agents in that illicit Trade carried on between both Nations in the West-Indies. A Confidence they repose in no other People; whose Cargoes are examined circumstantially, and minutely before their Delivery, while ours are taken on Trust, without the smallest Hesitation. Their Privateers, during War, place the same Faith in the Words of our Seamen, the Vessels under whose Command happen to fall into their Hands. And whatever Declarations or Promises are made on our Side, relative to the Lading, or the Ransom of the Prize, they pay the fullest Credit to them. All these are weighty Motives to preserve our Reputation of Veracity unstained, and never to swerve from that Rectitude of Conduct of which their Behaviour to us is so honourable a Reward.

THEIR Notions of our Probity and sincere Dealing are equalled by those they have

have often manifested of our Magnanimity and Courage: Of this not a more elucidating Proof can be given than the Sollicitude of their Governors, and other naval and military Officers in their South American Dominions, at the Time of Admiral Anson's Expedition to those Parts. Notwithstanding they were informed of the Disasters which had befallen our Squadron, they still kept the most watchful Look-out for its shattered Remains; well knowing, said they, that 'till the Whole was gone to Wreck, the English would persevere in the Enterprize they had begun.

THEY thought as highly of this Nation even in the Days of their Strength and Glory. Philip the second who was indubitably the most powerful Monarch of his Age, tho' his Ambition had raised him open and secret Foes throughout all Europe, took not his celebrated Motto, *omnes contra nos et nos contra omnes*, all against us and we against all, till Queen Elizabeth had declared herself his Enemy. Intimating thereby, that he thought more of the Enmity of England than of any

other Nation ; an Opinion, we may add, that was abundantly justified by the many famous Events that fill the Annals of that Time, and proved so fatal to the Designs of that haughty, restless Prince.

THE respectful Mention made of our Countrymen by Don Juan de Ulloa in his excellent Account of Spanish America, is a recent Proof of the favourable Light they are held in by sensible, enlightened Spaniards ; and is at the same Time a Testimony in our Favour the more to be valued, as it proceeds from the Pen of the most intelligent and judicious Writer Spain has of long Time produced.

To this equitable Temper, that leads them to do Justice to Merit in whoever possesses it, they add that noblest of all social Qualifications, a Mind full of Gratitude for Benefits received ; and are amply endued with that laudable Pride which glories in making Returns far superior to the Claims of those on whom they are conferred. Among many other Instances, that of Gondomar, the Spanish Ambassador
at

at the Court of our James the first, may be cited: Who when returned to his native Country, retained a Sense of the Civilities and kind Treatment he had met with in England, that animated him, on all Occasions, in Behalf of our Countrymen; many of whom found him a zealous advocate at Court, and a munificent Patron in those Difficulties and Distresses which itinerant Strangers are often liable to. By this Exertion of Benignity to Individuals in their private Affairs, atoning, in some Measure, for the many Mischiefs he had done to this Country in his public Character, during the Reign of that feeble Monarch, whom he made the perpetual Dupe of his superior political Capacity.

GRATITUDE naturally supposes Generosity; and of this the Spaniards have exhibited remarkable Specimens on sundry Emergencies. On that especially when they bestowed their Protection on our Charles the second, at a Time when both he and they were in very unprosperous Circumstances. He, a wandering Exile; they, prest on all Sides, and driven to the
Brink

Brink of Destruction. Yet, even in this calamitous Situation, Philip the fourth, influenced by his Minister Don Luis de Haro (a Man of the noblest Sentiments) had the Magnanimity and Resolution to incur a further Risk by assisting that unfortunate Prince. And tho' he durst not espouse his Cause in that effectual Manner he would have done, had the Condition of his Affairs permitted him to have followed his Inclinations, yet he openly and avowedly commiserated his Case, and in Defiance of the Frowns of the ruling Powers in England (whose Vengeance was well known to consist in more than empty Menaces) took respectful Notice of his Person, and bountifully relieved his Necessities. This was doing a great Deal at a Season when the least Token of Partiality in his Favour, was sufficient to irritate that furious vindictive Party which had the Strength of this Nation in their Hands, and had fully shewn they were inexorably determined to exert it to the utmost against all who provoked their Displeasure.

THIS

THIS Friendliness and Generosity of the Spanish Monarch, tho' it proved intrinsically of not much Consequence to Charles, was, however, a Freedom the French Ministry was too interested, and too narrow-spirited to assume. Byassed by the most sordid Motives, they treated him with a Slight and Indifference absolutely criminal, when we consider his Affinity to the Blood of their Kings, and that he was Grandson to their Henry the Fourth. A Behaviour not more to their Dishonour, than his not resenting it, on the Change of his Fortune, was advantagious to their Interest.

AND here one may further observe, that notwithstanding the French boast of their Country's being *l'Azile des Rois mal-heureux*, the Asylum of unhappy Kings, yet their Court seldom patronised any from pure, unselfish Views; and generally had some favourite End to compass by their pretended Generosity. Of this their Conduct to our unhappy James the second, and those to whom he bequeathed his Pretensions, is a recent Illustration.

FAR

FAR superior, in their political Inter-
course with our Nation, is the Character
of the Spaniards to that of the French.
It is true that during the Reign of Philip
the second, unwarrantable Designs found
Admittance into that Prince's Councils:
But the dreadful Policy of those bloody
Times afforded them (if it were possible)
some Sort of Countenance: As by the
Perpetration of the many flagitious Deeds,
from which no Part of Europe was exempt,
the Minds of Men were become famili-
arised with the most iniquitous Scenes, and
reconciled, as it were, to the most atrocious
Schemes of Perfidy. But since the Close
of that Century, which terminated a little
after his Death, this sanguinary Dispo-
sition gradually subsided; and notwith-
standing some Remains of it still broke
out occasionally in other Countries, we
had no Complaints of any such Nature
to make of the Spaniards; who though
fully devoted to their Religion and to
their Sovereign, were seldom or never
guilty of deceitful, treacherous Dealings
among our People, for the Sake of either;
and

and whenever they acted the Part of Enemies, did it openly, and without underhand, insidious Practices against the personal Safety or Welfare of our Kings. So well were the Actors in the Gunpowder-plot aware of this Disposition in the Spaniards, that however they knew them to be zealous in the Romish Cause, they never thought fit to intrust any of them with the least Intimation of their Designs.

BUT the French Ministry has ever had little of that Delicacy which suffers not the Differences between opposite Nations to degenerate into spiteful, sinister, ungenerous Enmity. Nay, even at a Time of profound Peace, in the latter Part of the Reign of our Charles the first, they could not refrain from their Disposition to Mischief; and employed their Emisseries in sowing the Seeds of the most fatal Division between him and his Subjects, and in exciting them, by the basest Methods, to those domestic Feuds of which the Catastrophe was so tragical to both.

THIS

THIS Elevation of Soul, common among Individuals of any Rank in Spain, flows from that Self-esteem and Respect they are forward enough to demonstrate by their Words and Actions; which Estimation of their own Worth dwells so forcibly in their Nobility and Gentry, as deeply to interest their Pride in the Preservation of their Honour: As their Notions of it are nice and refined, they are punctiliously careful, and solicitous to keep it whole, and unsullied by any Deviation from the strictest Maxims of Integrity either in public, or in private Affairs.

SUCH, in general, is the Frame of Mind of the better Sort in Spain; whose Conduct also, in Matters of a secondary Consideration, is of a Tenour that well agrees with the Loftiness of their Ideas and Sentiments; with which they are too much elated, to be vain of those less essential Advantages, those Accomplishments calculated for the mere Purposes of Pleasure and Pastime, of which some of their
Neigh-

Neighbours are apt to make so fulsome and tedious a Parade.

ACTUATED by the same Principles of Seriousness and Gravity, they prize not so much a splendid Imagination as a sound Judgment; and deem a solid Character far preferable to a brilliant one. They are not therefore so fond of those Conversations whose sole End is to divert and amuse, without affording a proportionable Share of Use and Instruction: And Sallies of Wit, which, however, they are eminently capable of and remarkably abound in, are much less in Request among them, than sensible and judicious Reflections.

IT is a Pity their Addiction to Books and Literature should be so moderate as it has confessedly been for many Years. Were they more sedulous in these Respects, their Ingenuity would undoubtedly enable them to make a Figure in the Republic of Letters equal to that of any Nation. But their general Negligence in the Cultivation of them, reduces Individuals
to

to the Necessity of drawing most of their Knowledge from their own Fund of Experience and Observation. Which, notwithstanding they are excellent Sources, and far exceed in Purity of Truth and Certitude the Lucubrations of the Closet alone, cannot compare with that superior Extent and Profoundness of acute and thorough Discernment which Reading and Meditation give to those who are adequately conversant with the World.

HENCE, tho' the Spanish Gentlemen are not deficient in frequent Manifestations of an excellent Understanding, yet it is chiefly Nature alone that shines in them with little or no additional Polish. And tho' they are often happy in a Fecundity of Thoughts pleasingly enough exprest, still it is evident, not from Want of Energy, but of Correctness in their Manner, that a classical Elegance of Stile is not a Thing they very anxiously aim at either in their Writings or Discourse.

ELOQUENCE, however, being much more the Consequence of a bright and lively
Imagi-

Imagination than of Labour and Study, as they are Men of quick and sprightly Fancies, and as the Gravity of their De-meanour, by proving a seasonable Check on the Vivacity and Flow of their Ideas, adds Weight and Dignity to their Delivery, it must be acknowledged that they possess the Gift of Speaking in a very ample Degree.

SOME Critics have passed unfavourable Judgments on their Language, as being often perplexed and embarrassed with figurative Modes of conveying Thoughts, which ought, for the Facility of Comprehension, to be cleared of all unnecessary Concomitances, and whose principal Ornament is Perspicuity. But allowing for that Intermixture of the Moorish Idiom and Taste, which could not fail to happen among Poople so long blended together as they and the Spaniards were, it would be unjust to deny that it still retains in other Respects as intimate an Analogy with the Genius and Methods of Expression of its Parent the Latin Tongue, as

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any of the European Dialects derived from it.

THE Spanish Language is undoubtedly as nervous and emphatical, and more pompous and majestic than any modern one: And tho' particularly remarkable for a Multitude of proverbial Phrases, yet they are conceived in a Strain that raises them above Vulgarity; and what is more deserving of Notice, are by the fertile Invention of the Natives kept in a perpetual State of Renovation; as a Spaniard has the peculiar Talent of conferring upon them an Air of Originality, by the Spirit and Novelty of the Turn he gives them.

THE Spanish Tongue has a Variety of Advantages over the French and Italian. The Regularity of its Construction far exceeds that of either; which alone is an Object of essential Importance: It moves, as it were, with stricter Discipline, and closer Order; and yet is not less abundantly stored with the richest Diversity of Words and Phrases, exhibiting an ample Scope for the Range of Imagination, and the

the Choice of Judgment. But above all, what neither of the above Languages can claim any Comparison in, it contains a due Measure of Strength and Harmony; and is equally removed from that affected Softness and Effeminacy of Sound which an endless Termination in Vowels produces in the Italian, and from that uncouth Singularity of Pronunciation in the French, which admits of no Rules but those of Caprice and Custom, and renders half the Letters of no Use and Signification in Speech; to the great Disgust and Perplexity of all who learn that Language.

THE State of Literature in Spain is like that of the Country, low, poor, and neglected. The Truth is, that the Minds of Men are narrowed by Superstition, and the Efforts of Genius circumscribed by the Terrors of the Inquisition, and the many other spiritual Fetters with which the Tyranny of the Clergy holds the People in the most slavish Subjection.

HENCE those Studies that flourish most in Spain are such as yield no Profit to the Community, or even Pleasure to their Prosecutors, the dry, uninteresting Niceties of scholastic Divinity; which far from being of any Service to Mankind, have often proved the Occasion of much Animosity and Division in the ecclesiastical World.

SPAIN may boast of having produced some of the most famous of these School Disputants. Especially Lemos and Molina, who about the Commencement of the last Century filled half the Universities of Europe with their idle Disquisitions concerning Grace and Predestination, and other like Matters of the most abstruse, inscrutable Nature. The Peace of the Romish Church was so disturbed by the Difference of Opinions that ensued, and the *Odium Theologicum*, the Abhorrence which dissenting Divines held each other in, rose to such a Degree of Wrath and Fury, that the Court of Rome was obliged
to

to interpose between both Parties, in order to bring about a Pacification; which, however, was never thoroughly effected; the Disunion and Schism occasioned by these absurd Contentions subsisting at this Day.

NOR should it be forgotten that Spain is the Fountain-head from whence scholastic Philosophy, as well as Divinity, overflowed the Remainder of Europe. The Moors, who derived their Opinions and Customs from the Arabians, like them delighted in Subtleties, and in the Examination and Solution of intricate Questions and Problems. Aristotle, therefore, of all the Greek Writers, was the most acceptable to their Taste; and they translated into Arabic, for the Use of their Students, and made Comments without Number upon, the logical Parts of his Writings: The Reputation of which spread from them (who were then, as already observed, the most polished People in Europe) to all their Neighbours, and was thus diffused throughout Christendom.

HAD the genuine Works of that great Philosopher been the real Subject of this universal Application, it is probable the Schools of Europe would, in time, have been substantially benefitted by that Treasure of solid Sense and deep Understanding, with which they are indisputably replenished. But Aristotle himself was almost out of the Question. He remained unread, and in a Manner unknown: The Intelligence of his original Language was, in those ignorant Ages, a Prodigy; and no Versions subsisted but of the Portions brought into Vogue, as above mentioned, tho' they were far from being the most valuable of his Compositions. But even these were very little perused: The great Objects of Attention were those endless Treatises to which they gave Occasion, on Matters totally remote from any Kind of Improvement or Utility whatever.

It seems almost inconceivable, in this enlightened Æra, what a stupid Veneration was, during the Course of several Centuries

turies, paid to the unmeaning, unintelligible Jargon that passed in those Days for philosophical Knowledge. It was therefore no Wonder that Men of the World, who had Penetration enough to see through the Futility of such empty Lucubrations, left them entirely to Ecclesiastics and the Inhabitants of Cloysters, the Soil where they grew and prospered best, and from whence they are far from eradicated even at this Day.

NEVERTHELESS, as no other Sort of Learning was then thought of, these senseless Investigations were prosecuted with the most shameful Assiduity, and considered as Occupations of the sublimest Nature and Importance by the whole Body of Churchmen, who in those obscure, illiterate Periods, were the only Class of People on whom it was judged necessary to bestow any Education.

THIS, to say the most of it, consisted of little more than a bare Understanding of the wretched Latin into which the Scriptures were translated, usually called the

Vulgate. The favourite Studies of their riper Years were those scholastic Disquisitions, which, instead of instructing, served only to croud the Mind with a confused Multitude of logical and metaphysical Terms, and Definitions, of which the Meaning was inexplicable..

IN such Pursuits, however, whole Lives were expended; and they who most excelled in syllogistical Wranglings were held in the highest Admiration. Hence those bombastic Epithets conferred on Thomas Aquinas, Scotus, and Occam. The first of whom was stiled the angelical, the second the subtile, and the third the irrefragable Doctor. Men who, together with many others of their disputant Brethren, might, with the strictest Propriety, be said to have been born for the Times; and who, in a reasonable Age, would have been Subjects of Derision. Excepting the first, who was also a Casuist, and whose principal Performance, entitled the *Summa*, is still read, there was not the least Spark of Genius, Utility, or Entertainment in the whole of their
immense

immense Compositions : Which are now consigned to Oblivion, and the Memory of their Authors to Contempt, unless in some of the Spanish or Flemish Universities.

SUCH were the Literati of those Days. Such the Men who presided over the Understandings of Mankind, and directed what was proper to be taught and learned. Through their Management of the intellectual Faculties, calm, dispassionate Reasoning was absolutely banished ; and a Spirit of Altercation and Controversy introduced that rendered Men much less zealous in the Investigation of Truth, than in the Defence of their Opinions, well or ill grounded, and chiefly solicitous in the Refutation of their Opponents. Against these all the Weapons were used that Chicanery could devise, all Artifices were lawful, Subterfuges, Equivocations, Quirks and Quibbles of all Sorts. So little, indeed, were they anxious about any Thing, but forming their Pupils to Tenaciousness and Obstinacy, that the first Maxim inculcated in their Schools

Schools was that well known Line, not yet disused in some Colleges abroad,

Saepe nega ; concede parum ; distingue frequenter.

Often deny ; make few Concessions, and frequent Distinctions.

UNDER Men wholly taken up with such Avocations, and who rated every one's Merit according to his Degree of Expertness therein, little was to be expected in Favour of polite Literature, which accordingly, as a Treasure of which the Possessor knows not the Worth, lay for Centuries, deposited like useless Lumber in their Libraries ; happy to have escaped, in part, the Destruction to which the barbarous Infatuation of some pious Bigots devoted the most precious Remains of classical Antiquity.

ON the Revival of Letters, as the Greek and Roman Authors became the sole Standards, not only of Politeness and Elegance in Writing, but also of Truth and Reasoning, Aristotle, instead of losing
Ground,

Ground, gained an Accession of Strength and Authority in those Matters precisely, wherein he least deserves Commendation, and is most erroneous. Several Universities, that of Paris especially, gave his philosophical Opinions such an exclusive Right of Preference to all others, as to make Decrees that on his own Works alone Lectures should be read by the Professors to their Pupils. To which Absurdity Boileau humourously alludes in one of his Satires, where he introduces a Pedant fully persuaded that,

“ *Sans Aristote*
 “ *La Raison ne voit goutte, et le bon Sens radote.*”

Without Aristotle Reason is blind, and
 good Sense a Dotard.

As Mankind runs generally from one Extreme to another, the Ancients, who for Ages had been neglected and almost forgotten, were now treated with so much Reverence, that equal Hommage was paid to their Beauties and to their Errors, and both were copied with similar Exactitude.

A WHOLE

A WHOLE Century elapsed between the Resurrection of classical Studies, and the Dawn of true Philosophy; which 'till the Days of Bacon in England, Descartes in France, and Galilei in Italy, lay quite enveloped in authoris'd Prejudices, from which it was become unlawful and dangerous to depart; as the Treatment of the two last too well exemplified. Thus the Ptolemaic System triumphed over the Copernican; and the very faulty and incorrect Charts of that ancient Geographer (which to do him Justice were admirable for his Time) continued in Vogue till the Days of Ortelius, who flourished towards the latter End of the sixteenth Century.

Tho' Spain comes in for a proportionable Share of literary Fame in many of the polite and elegant Branches, yet it has hitherto made no capital Figure in the Sciences; nor in those Parts of Philosophy that claim the most attentive and serious Inquiry; and wherein an unlimited Freedom and Energy in the Use of Reason, is the only Medium whereby to arrive at Truth. Such Disquisitions
would

would not be tolerated from a Spirit of Bigotry; and the Sciences have been prevented from prospering among them, by a rooted Habit of Indolence, and a Dislike to those Pursuits that require an Activity of Application. It is owing to these Causes that Spain has sent forth no such Men for the Instruction of the World, as England, France, Italy, and Germany.

IN Matters of Wit, and in that Species of Ingenuity where a complete Knowledge of the Ways of Men, and an acute Insight into the Passions incident to human Nature are the Basis of Success, their Writers have shewn the Way to all the Moderns. Cervantes stands unequalled to this Day. In History too, where Gravity, Pomp, and Elegance of Style are, next to Veracity, the most necessary Qualifications, their Merit is eminent. It is no Exaggeration to say, that Solis is hardly exceeded by any Historian, ancient or modern. But yet, as if the Genius of Superstition was inseparable from a Spaniard, they both betray a Propensity to it that is the more surprising, as neither of their Subjects had
the

the least Need of any such Ingredient to secure a favourable Reception, or seemed calculated to give it Admittance. The former, in a Work of pure Pleasantry, his Don Quixote, cannot help inserting a long Story of the Assistance a christian Slave received from the Virgin Mary, in escaping from Algier; and the latter, in his celebrated History of the Conquest of Mexico, introduces the Apostle James, the tutelary Saint of Spain, fighting for the Spaniards against the Mexicans; much in the same Strain that Livy represents Castor and Pollux engaged in Battle on the Side of the Romans.

IN Poetry they have not been so happy. They have no Epic Poem to place on a Level with those of Tasso, Ariosto, or Milton. Gongora, the most celebrated of all their Lyric Poets, is absolutely Fustian; and according to Horace, "*Dum vitat Humum Nubes et Inania Captat,*" While he shuns Vulgarities becomes unintelligible. Even his own Countrymen have stiled him the Marvellous, and few of them are able to read him with any Satisfaction,

Satisfaction, from the Difficulty of comprehending him.

IN dramatic Compositions their Fame is not great. Lopes de Vega, their best Writer, whatever his Deserts may appear in Spain, is not mentioned out of his own Country with that Applause a Shakespeare, a Corneille, a Racine so deservedly command ; many of whose Performances have been honoured with Translations, while those of Vega are confined to his own Language. Tho' to do him Justice, both English and French Writers have borrowed many useful Hints and Thoughts from his numerous Works.

RAPIN the Jesuit, in treating of the Stage, ascribes to the Spaniards and Italians a quicker Discovery of the Foibles and Ridicules of People, and a nicer Feeling and Discernment of the various Characters of Men, than was possessed by the French. Such an Observation seems the more ill-founded and unseasonable, as he made it at a Time when Moliere, his Countryman, had brought French Comedy
to

to the utmost Perfection. It is true enough that both the Spaniards and Italians, especially the last, have a particular Talent in exciting Laughter by a droll and ludicrous Representation of the common Occurrences in Life ; and in exhibiting, with a mirthful Vein of Buffoonry, the Outside of Things. But in Refinement, and Delicacy of Thought, in Neatness and Decency of Expression, they approach neither to the English nor the French. And the worst Performances among these, are preferable in those Respects to the best of theirs ; which notwithstanding their Concomitances of Wit and Merriment, would not, on account of their Deficiency in Taste and good Manners, meet with the Approbation of a polite Audience in France or in England.

THE Fact is that few Spanish or Italian Plays will bear Reading, much less Translating ; and that they are seldom fit to entertain any but the Mob.

IN Spain, the Management of the Theatre is wretched to a most pitiful Degree,
 4 furnishing

furnishing no unfrequent Exhibitions of those preposterous Scenes, so much in Vogue two Centuries ago in Europe: Wherein the most solemn Transactions of Religion, and the most serious Passages in the Gospel, were introduced on the Stage, and acted as so many Farces. This must be thought the more surprizing, as the Spanish Ecclesiastics, however ignorant and illiterate, preserve that native Gravity in their Deportment, and that Exemplariness in their Conduct, which according to the Rule of Appearance, denote a juster Sense of Propriety than is consistent with a Toleration of such Indecencies. And as their Influence and Authority are so considerable, one is apt to imagine that they might, and therefore ought, long since to have put a Stop to them. But possibly the Indolence of the secular, and the Bigotry of the regular Clergy is such, that the first, content with the Income of their Benefices, give themselves but little or no Concern about the Liberties that are taken with the exterior Parts of Religion, as long as People remain submissive and implicit in their Belief; and the second, tho'

more austere in their Notions, yet as many of their own Practices are equally ridiculous, perceive not so readily the Impropriety and Shamefulness of such Proceedings.

THESE dramatic Pastimes, mean and contemptible as they are, still ingross the Leisure and Attention of the highest, as well as of the lowest Classes; whose Passion for Ease and Inactivity qualifies them to put up with any sedentary Amusement, however preposterous and insipid.

THEY have scarce more than one deserving the Epithet of active, and that is their Bull Feasts: The Danger and Bloodiness of which Diversion, if it may be so termed, perfectly suits their romantic Disposition; as it recalls to their Imagination the Tilts and Tournaments for which their Ancestors were so famous. Two Things are worthy Notice on these Occasions, the Agility displayed by the Actors in these Festivals, and the Quality of, sometimes, no few of them. One would think the Spaniards meant them as

Proofs, the first, that their Aversion to Labour arises not from a Defect of Spirit and Vivacity, the second, that all Manner of Opportunities of signalising their Intrepidity were ever welcome to Individuals of all Ranks throughout the Nation. Less indulgent Spectators will perhaps be inclined to consider them both rather as Instances of a frantic Depravity of Taste, and the last, in particular, as a Meanness equal to that of which the Roman Nobility was guilty in the Days of their Degeneracy, when they forgot their Dignity so far as to become Gladiators, and encounter wild Beasts for the Entertainment of the Public.

SUCH are in general, the Recreations in Spain: A Country where none but the Natives can find much Delight, or Satisfaction, from the Distance and Shyness observed towards Strangers, and the Inconveniences that are perpetually arising from the Laziness of the People, and the Uncleanliness of Places. Evils that are severely felt, the last principally, by those in whose Countries Neatness is looked

upon as an indispensable Requisite. Madrid, their Metropolis, and the Residence of their Kings, is rendered often almost pestiferous by excessive Filth; and it is but very lately they have sought any Remedy by regularly cleansing the Streets, and using some other Precautions.

So culpable a Negligence in what requires so just a Share of Attention, Cleanliness and Convenience, ill agrees with that Splendour and Magnificence of which their Grandees make so pompous a Parade; and with that Solitude in the Decoration of their Persons so visible in all who can afford it: In the fair Sex especially, who much resemble the Turkish Women in this Point, and are immeasurably fond of the most costly Ornaments of Apparel that Riches can possibly procure. There are other Instances of Resemblance between them: Among which that of Gallantry is not the least considerable. As they are under a greater Seclusion from general Society than the Sex is in other European Countries, where a more promiscuous Admission is allowed them every where,

where, their Desires of an adequate Degree of Liberty are thence the more strong and urgent; and a free and open Communication being denied them, they make it their Business to secure themselves a secret and hidden one. Hence it is that Spain is the Country of Intrigue; and that no Women exert more Ingenuity in such Affairs than the Spanish; whose amorous Constitution, inflamed by the Severity of Restraint, is ever instigating them to those Pursuits, for which it is a Pity their Eagerness should not be abated by that generous Confidence in their Discretion, and that Freedom of their Persons, which, to the Honour of Womankind, Experience has amply shewn to be the most effectual and powerful, as well as the most rational Tie of conjugal Fidelity.

THE Spanish Women are little or nothing indebted to Education; receiving all from Nature, which has liberally supplied them with a Fund of Wit and Sprightliness that is undoubtedly no small Inducement with those who have only transient Glimpses of their Charms, to wish

very earnestly for a Removal of those Impediments that obstruct their more frequent Prefence. This not being attainable in a lawful Way of customary Intercourse, the natural Propensity of Men to overcome Difficulties of this Kind, incites them to leave no Expedient untried to gain Admittance to what perhaps was at first only the Object of their Admiration, but which, by their being refused an innocent Gratification of that Passion, becomes at last the Subject of a more serious one. Thus in Spain, as in all Countries, where the Sex is kept much cut of Sight, the Thoughts of Men are continually employed in devising Methods to break into their Concealments.

INTRIGUES are not in Spain of the same frivolous transitory Nature as in France and some other Countries. A Spanish Lady who bestows her Affections expects the strictest and completest Reciprocation; and as she observes the most inviolate Fidelity on her Side, cannot bear the Idea of Prevarication on the Part of her

her Gallant ; who has often much more to apprehend from his double Dealing, than the mere Loss of his Mistress ; the Spirit of a Spanish Woman in Love-matters being very resentful, when her Jealousy, which is ever on the Watch, discovers the Falshood of a Lover.

NUMBERLESS Instances might be cited of this vindictive, unforgiving Disposition ; which has been carried sometimes to so rancorous an Extremity, as even to procure the Death of their Rivals, as well as of their Lovers when forsaken by them.

AN atrocious Example of Revenge is recorded of one that gave an Option of the Bowl or of the Dagger to her perfidious Paramour, who was forced, by the Situation she had previously taken Care to place him in, to accept of the former of these dreadful Alternatives.

THIS fatal Temper operates with no less Violence in the Men, whose Resent-

ment, when they are unfaithfully dealt with, often produces Scenes of the most tragical Nature; no Nation in Europe being more jealous, and suffering more from the terrible Effects of that unfortunate Passion.

HAPPILY however, for both Sexes, Infidelity is far from being the Characteristic of a Spaniard. Love in Spain is an Affair of too great Importance to be trifled with: It usually proves the Source of much Felicity or Misfortune; and to succeed or to fail in it are Objects of the most serious Desires or Apprehensions.

THE Spaniards are not Masters of so much Elocution and Art in expressing their Passion, as the French, who exceed them, and indeed all Nations, in the Science of verbal Courtship, as much as they fall short of them in the more essential Articles of Truth and Constancy, the two cardinal Virtues in a Lover, which amply atone for Want of Choice in his Words, or Gracefulness in his Manner.

BUT

BUT it is much less on complimentary and studied Forms and Phrases of Gallantry, than on Integrity and Candour, that a Spanish Lover founds his Hopes of Success with his Countrywomen; who, in Return, pay more Regard to the Warmth and Attachment, than to the Address and Eloquence of their Suitors; and had rather possess the Hearts of Men, though their chief, and perhaps only Merit be Sincerity, than receive the Homage of the most witty and polite, where that capital Requisite is wanting.

FROM this Review of the Character and Disposition of the Spaniards, it appears that notwithstanding the political Degeneracy which has befallen them as a Nation, they yet retain a sufficient Number of eminent Qualities to procure them Esteem and Respect as Individuals.

THUS the Probity and Generosity of the Spanish Gentlemen, and Persons of any Figure in Life, is still proverbial every where. There are indisputably no Men in whose Honour and Integrity a greater Degree

Degree of Trust and Confidence is more universally reposed.

NOR are the inferior Classes wanting in those Indications of a spirited Turn of Mind, that often recal to Memory the Figure they once made, and would possibly still make, were an Administration to arise, earnestly inclined and resolved to promote the Exertion of all the national Qualifications that might be rendered of public Utility.

BUT these are Objects that seem very distant from the Intentions of those at the Helm. Instead of cherishing such Dispositions as are laudable and promising, they rather study to sink and depress the natural Magnanimity and Firmness of Temper in the Natives, in order to reduce them to that Standard of Obedience, or rather of Abjectness, which may silence those inward Emotions of Anger and Indignation, at their Treatment, that so often give Birth to a more explicit and dangerous Manifestation of them.

THIS

THIS injurious and despicable End they have endeavoured to compass by a Behaviour full of Disregard and Slight; as if Want of Respect to the Body of a People was the Method to enforce Compliance and Submission.

A LATE Experiment has, however, shewn that Virtues inherent in Mankind by Birth, and the Force of Tradition, are not to be eradicated even by the supposed Omnipotence of arbitrary Power. The intrepid Defiance so invincibly bid in the very Face and Presence of the supreme Authority, nobly evinces the Spaniards to be Men, who, though willing for the Sake of internal Peace, to submit to Government, even when acting erroneously, are not to be wantonly insulted by the tyrannical Capriciousness of a Court.

AND yet it is evident the Spirits of a Nation must, in Appearance, have been brought to a very low Ebb indeed, when its Oppressors, not satisfied with the real Exercise of unlimited Sway, could not rest
till

till they had made the Oppressed sensible of their own Insignificancy, by compelling them to adopt the very Manners and external Usages of a Country, for which they entertained the more violent a Hatred, as it was the Land of Nativity of those who treated them with so much Contempt, and for the Sake of which, their own had suffered so many Calamities.

ON the whole, it is apparent, that the great Vice of the Spaniards is Indolence, fatally too prevalent among the Generality. For this, nevertheless, the Government is at least, if not as much more in Fault, than its Subjects; who certainly are not deficient in those Endowments whereon the Glory and Prosperity of Nations is founded. But the Exertion of them depends on those who are at their Head; and unhappily for Spain, its Rulers have been more guilty of neglecting its most essential Interests, than perhaps any other Ministry in Europe.

THIS, however, need excite no Wonder, when we consider the Ambition of their
Monarchs

Monarchs in former Times. Elated with the Acquisition of a new World, and possessed of the richest Parts of the old, it was not surprising both they and their Subjects forgot that the Mines of Wealth are not inexhaustible, unless they are found in the Industry and good Management of Mankind. A Truth, it must be confessed, of which their Ignorance was the more pardonable, as it was common at that Period; but of which they obtained the Knowledge at a greater Cost than any other People, as they became not fully convinced of it till their Strength was wasted, their Country depopulated, and the Means of retrieving themselves almost entirely cut off.

AFTER the Extinction of that Family, whose Princes had involved them in this stupendous Ruin, and brought the once greatest People in the World, to the lowest Degree of Abjection, when the Sceptre was transferred into the Hands of a foreign Race, it was less surprising still, that all that commendable Nationality, which ought to warm the Heart of Kings, should be totally banished from their Councils,
and

and the only Use of Power converted to selfish Ends.

THESE are Facts which it were in vain to dissemble, while all Europe is conscious of them. Facts that have so glaringly struck the Eyes of all discerning People in Spain, that a general Discontent at Measures evidently calculated to hasten a Ruin so long ago begun, and so near completed, has at length produced a general Despondency among the thinking Part of the Nation ; who cannot behold, without equal Grief and Resentment, their Affairs managed not only with the most absurd and contemptible Impolicy, but, what is much worse, intrusted to the Direction of Men, who, it must not be expected, will ever pursue other Measures : Men who cannot be supposed to have at Heart, the Happiness of Spain ; in a Word, of Strangers, who long have seemed by the whole Tenour of their Administration, to have considered Spain in the same Light that Spain itself views its American Possessions, as a Fund from whence to draw Resources for the Prosecution of Schemes wherein
the

the Interest of those who supply them, is looked upon as a Thing of no Consequence.

THOUGH it is a great Misfortune for a Country to be governed by inexperienced, unskilful Ministers, yet the Evil is much greater when Ministers, however able and experienced, are Aliens; who from their Indifference in what Manner their Abilities are exerted, are always ready to prostitute them for Ends diametrically opposite to the Welfare of the State they govern.

A NATIVE, however inadequate to the Task, still acts to the best of his Judgment and Capacity, for the good of a Community wherein he feels himself interested, and however subservient to the Will and Desires of his Sovereign, still retains some Share of Attachment for his Country. But the Experience of more than half a Century has plainly demonstrated, that not a Spark of this is felt by those Adventurers, (they deserve no better Name) who under the Protection of Royalty, have obtruded themselves into every Department of this misgoverned Kingdom; devoted, as it were, to the capricious Management

nagement of Men, who, one would imagine by their Conduct, have thought themselves authoris'd to make Trials of their political Skill, in the framing of Enterprises and Projects, which, though not bearing a Shadow of Emolument, or even of Relation to Spain, were yet to be carried into Execution at the Expence of Spanish Blood and Money.

SUCH has been the Fate of a People, who formerly would have spurned at the very Thought of being ruled by any but themselves at Home; who far from receiving Laws, or submitting to Influence from Abroad, assumed a dictatorial Arrogance in all the Courts of Europe; of a People whose Statesmen and Generals presided over so many States and Kingdoms, and subdued or over-awed so large a Part of the Globe.

So humiliating a Catastrophe affords but a melancholy Prospect for the Vanity of those Politicians who raise their Superstructures on the Soil of Ambition; and who in the unfortunate Vicissitudes that have finally awaited those Nations which have sought their Aggrandisement by similar Means,

Means, cannot but read the Transitoriness of those Schemes of Might and Grandeur, they so presumptuously erect in their Imagination.

INSTRUCTED by the unvariable Testimony of all preceding Times, they will discover that such Plans, however artfully laid, however vigorously executed, carry no Principle of Stability ; that the Duration of the most successful, and most triumphant, is ever tottering and precarious ; and that though the Concurrence of lucky Events, may seem to promise them Lastingness, they can only protract the Date of their Fall ; an Event necessarily connected with the very Nature of these iniquitous Systems ; and which, even while retarded by unexpected Casualties, is visibly impending in the Perception of all who are judicious enough to deduce future Effects from present Causes.

THE fluctuating, unstable Condition of all States that are established on mere Force and Violence, is a Truth unani-

mously attested by the Records of all Ages.

THE Persian Empire, founded on the Conquests of Cyrus, never enjoyed any settled, permanent Repose; and having as unjustly, as imprudently, incensed its Neighbours the Greeks, by repeated Invasions of their Country, and Endeavours to deprive them of their Liberties, fell at last under the united Efforts of that warlike People.

THE prodigious Monarchy formed under Alexander, terminated with the Life of that Conqueror; and the various Realms that arose from its Dissolution were nothing, from their Commencements to their last Periods, but Scenes of mutual Slaughter and Devastation.

THE Romans, who were openly determined to become universal Lords and Masters, were continually exposed to Destruction, and escaped it much more through the ill Management and Disunion of their Enemies, than through their own Courage
and

and Conduct. The Volscians, Latins, and Samnites, often reduced them to the most dreadful and most mortifying Extremities; and the whole World knows, that if Hannibal had been properly seconded, Rome, in all Probability, had seen its latter Day.

WHAT was said of our Ancestors in Britain, might with equal Propriety be applied to all the Nations subdued by the Roman Arms, "*Dum singuli pugnant Universi vincuntur*," By making a separate Resistance, they were all successively overcome. This Error was the real Source of the Preservation and good Fortune of Rome.

BUT as Ambition is a Declaration of War to all Mankind, through that unceasing Succession of Hostilities it naturally provokes from all Quarters, it must unavoidably, soon or late, work out its own Destruction.

THUS Rome perished at last, under the reiterated Incursions and Assaults of those Nations it had so long insulted over.

THUS to argue from the Experience of our own Times, the Haughtiness and dangerous Designs of Charles the Twelfth of Sweden, drew upon him the whole Weight of the North, which not only crushed all his Projects, but in a Manner, annihilated the Power and Importance of his Crown, for a long Series of Years.

THUS the Pride and Arrogance of Lewis the Fourteenth, by involving him in perpetual Quarrels with all his Neighbours, roused their Hatred and Resentment to a Confederacy, which had it persevered with the same Spirit it began, would, in all Likelihood, have effected the total Ruin of the French Monarchy.

THUS, to conclude the Subject which gave Occasion to these Reflections, Spain, after having, during the Space of near two Centuries, kept Europe in continual Alarms, after having tyrannized the divers People subject to its Empire, plundered and massacred the innocent and harmless Inhabitants of the newly discovered

vered Hemisphere, and exercised all Manner of Oppression wherever its Power extended, at length underwent the Fate it had for so many Reasons deserved.

FALLEN from that Height of Supremacy and Command, it shewed itself unworthy to enjoy by exerting them with so much Injustice and Barbarity, it is now reduced to that Degree of Insignificancy (comparatively to its former Importance) as to be numbered with those Empires that subsist no longer but in historical Remembrance ; and remains, in the Eye of the Universe, a conspicuous Example of the Miseries intailed on a State conducted by the Principles of Tyranny and Ambition.

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